

## Solidarity Web Activity

Supply needed: Long string or rope (preferably thick enough to be visible by a large group of students)

The activity:

- To begin, ask for a volunteer from the group. Invite them up front with you, and ask them to tell you one thing about themselves (ex. I like baseball).
- Then ask them to hold onto the end of the string, and ask the group if anyone else there likes baseball (or whatever the first volunteer said). Choose one of the other students who raised their hand that they do, and invite them up front.
- Have the second student stand a ways away from the first student, and stretch the string out so they can hold onto another part of it there. Ask the second student to tell you something different about themselves (ex. I have two sisters).
- Ask the group if anyone else has two sisters, and choose from one of those students who does to come up front next.
- Repeat with them holding a piece of the string across from the others (try to criss-cross the previously stretched string), and telling you something about themselves. Continue until you have as many volunteers as you feel make a good web up front (or as much as time allows).
- Have these students remain up front while you begin the discussion.

The discussion:

- Ask the group what you've made here (a web).
- Ask the group how that happened, or what it was that made the web (similarities, things they have in common).
- Ask the group what would happen if we kept going, and everyone in the group got up (there would be a very large web). What about if everyone in the school, the parish, the town, the state, the *WORLD* were part of the web?!
- Ask the group what *EVERY* person in the world has in common (created by GOD, GOD loves them, etc.)
- Even though there are so many people in the world, and so many differences, there are also similarities, and it is important in mission to remember these and respect others as being beautiful people of GOD just like us (rather than focusing on the have's and have-not's, or seeing ourselves as better than others because of differences).
- Introduce the word "**SOLIDARITY**" as meaning "connectedness" and talk about everyone in the world being connected by GOD.
- Invite the students holding the string to hold extra tight, but move with the string as it pulls. Then tell the group that one side (ex. right) is good decisions, and the other direction is bad decisions. So for example, if little Johnny (choose one of the students) makes a good decision (ex. prays for someone, recycles, is nice to his classmates, gives money, helps his mom and dad, gives his coat away, does their homework, etc...), he

moves to the right; demonstrate by moving him in that “good” direction, and show how the whole web of students move in the good direction with him. Then demonstrate what happens when little Janie makes a bad decision (ex. ignores someone in need, doesn’t go to church, buys more toys than they need, steals, wastes water, says mean things, etc...); move a student on the other side of the web in the opposite direction to show how the whole group moves too. Discuss how solidarity and being connected means that all of our decisions, good or bad, affect others too, so we should think hard about making good decisions, so the world can move in a good direction!

- If any of the volunteers shared about their families or having siblings, ask the entire group if any of them have family there (ex. siblings in the same class or school). Ask the group if anyone has siblings in another town? State? Country? Then ask them if they know that ALL OF THEM have siblings in other countries. Talk about how because we are all made by GOD, we are all the family of GOD, and therefore family with one another. Talk about how we are all connected with our brothers and sisters of faith all over the world, and re-emphasize that we need to make good decisions to help care for our brothers and sisters around the world. Ask the students what they do in their families (ex. play together, do chores, pray for, help each other out, maybe help with homework, don’t always get along great, etc...), and explain how we can do those same things with our global family (we play similar games and sometimes may even meet and can play or have fun together; we have to do work together and help each other out, especially when others are suffering; we should pray together and our Mass is the prayer that unites us all together because it’s the same prayers no matter where you go in the world; we can learn/study about each other to get-to-know one another and other cultures more; we may not always get along, but we have to keep working at it because we are family!)
- ***This is what solidarity means, and why we are called to be a part of it! It is being connected; it is being a global family; it is respect and caring for everyone around the world near and far; it is making good decisions out of love for our global family, knowing that we’re connected!***