

Activity: Be a Star on the Solidarity Map

(90 minutes)

1 of 3

FACE THE FAST

Objective

Through this group project, participants will:

- develop a plan to share the information they have learned about global poverty during this Food Fast;
- contact elected officials encouraging them to support legislation and policies that will assist the poor around the world and here in the United States; and
- prepare a report on your group's activities to submit to *Catholics Confront Global Poverty (CCGP)*, and earn your "star" on the Solidarity Map.

Activity Summary

Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invite your youth group to share how you addressed hunger and poverty through your Food Fast. In recognition for your efforts, CRS will place a star for your group on our online *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* Solidarity Map.

In order to earn your star on the Solidarity Map your group must take action through prayer, learning, sharing, and advocating. Through this Food Fast, you have already spent time in prayer and learning about our global community. In this activity your group will decide how to share what you have learned, and advocate for policies that support our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty.

Option: Consider starting with *Group Project: Catholics Confront Global Poverty* to learn about this initiative and how to involve your entire parish or school community.

Materials Needed

- digital camera
- internet access
- flipchart paper
- tape
- markers
- paper and pens for letter writing
- envelopes and stamps to send letters to elected officials

Option: Visit <http://actioncenter.crs.org> to read current action alerts and to send an email to your elected official about a particular issue. *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* can also send action alerts to your cell phone. Text "CCGP" to 30644 to sign-up. Once you're signed up you can send messages to your elected official or receive current action alerts.

Preparation

Before the Food Fast, make sure that all participants in your youth group have submitted a *Parental Consent Form* (see: *How to coordinate a successful Food Fast*) to participate, which includes a photo release. You will take pictures of your Food Fast in action, and submit them to *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* to earn your star on the Solidarity Map.

You will also need to print information and resources from the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* website (www.crs.org/globalpoverty). Be sure to print information on how to "Be a Star on the Solidarity Map" as well as items that relate to Church teaching and the latest action items that are on the website.

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FACE THE FAST

Session 1 (30 minutes)

Procedure

Briefly review the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* initiative, and be sure to highlight the goal to “Be a Star on the Solidarity Map” by taking action on issues that impact people around the world.

Be sure to point out the following:

- In his 2009 World Day of Peace message, Pope Benedict XVI said we must be “personally outraged by the injustices in the world” to end the marginalization of the world’s poor. In his message, he was issuing a challenge to Catholics everywhere: Let’s put global poverty on the map.
- That means we must raise the issues that are fueling global poverty to a level where more and more people can see them. And we must elevate our responses so that more and more people can join us.
- To that end, Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invite your church, school, or group to put your efforts to address global poverty on the map: our interactive, online *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* “Solidarity Map”.
- Your group will receive a star on the Solidarity Map after successfully completing activities in the four “challenge” areas. Session 2 includes a few ideas to help you implement your own four-point strategy to pray, learn, share, and advocate on global poverty.

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FACE THE FAST

Session 2 (60 minutes)

Procedure

Divide participants into 3 groups and make a plan to complete your action steps to earn your solidarity star. Distribute flipchart paper and markers for groups to record their ideas.

Share Group

The Share Group will plan how you will share the information on global poverty that you have learned during this Food Fast. Ideas for sharing include: speaking at your parish or school, writing an article for the editorial page of your local newspaper or blog, including information in your parish bulletin or school newspaper, etc.

Advocate Group

The Advocate group will plan how you can advocate for policies that respect human life and promote assistance for our brothers and sisters who live in poverty. Ideas for advocating include: calling or writing your elected officials based on information from a current CCGP action alert, scheduling a meeting with your members of Congress in their local offices, encouraging others in your parish or school to sign up and join CCGP, etc.

Option: Use Connection to the World: Meet with your member of Congress to arrange a meeting with your elected officials.

Star Group

The Star Group will prepare information about your Food Fast to submit to *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* so that you can get your star. Information to submit includes: your group's name and location, pictures or videos of your Food Fast, and descriptions of your four action steps of praying, learning, sharing, and advocating. Once the group has gathered all of the information, submit your report at: www.foodfast.org.

Discussion

After 20 minutes, ask each group to present their ideas to the large group.

As a large group, discuss how you should best proceed with your ideas. Complete as much of your plan as possible during your Food Fast, and be sure to have a plan for follow up to complete this project after the Fast if necessary.

More information on "Becoming a Star on the Solidarity Map" and for submitting your group's activities can be found at www.crs.org/globalpoverty. If you have any questions or need assistance submitting information, contact CRS at foodfast@crs.org.