

Simple ideas for walking in solidarity

Prayer

A petition at Sunday Mass for your sister parish.

Intention of a Rosary for your sister parish.

Special Mass on the feast day of your sister parish.

Ask your sister parish to pray and include your parish in their petitions.

Have children in PSR classes or school say a special prayer for children of sister parish. Have children in religious education classes there do the same.

Make prayer cards for sister parish and place in church entrances.

Ask your pastor to share a reflection on current struggles at your sister parish.

Communication

Have one person send an email once a month to pastor of sister parish stating current activities of your parish and asking about theirs. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Ask pastor in sister parish for names of those in leadership of your sister parish who have the ability to communicate via email, WhatsApp, etc.

Send email to those in leadership of sister parish.

Share the joys and struggles of your parish with your sister parish.

Ask your sister parish what is their greatest current struggle.

Listen with an open mind.

Ask how they celebrate feast days.

Ask what are their important holidays and why.

Ask what a day is like for the average parishioner of your sister parish.

Be sure to share information with your parish via your bulletin, website, pictures boards as you enter church, etc.

Trips/Visits

Talk with your sister parish about traveling to your sister parish or invite representatives here from your sister parish.

If on a visit to your sister parish reach out to those you meet and continue to communicate after you return home.

Discuss with your sister parish what is a good plan for visits. For example, this year you travel and 2 years later they travel here and continue the cycle.

When a representative is visiting here, be sure to have your parish greet him/her with open arms.

Show representatives from your sister parish daily life, attractions, church activities of your parish and community.

Cultural Awareness

Have a Fair Trade Sale.

Get a life story from a member of your sister parish and publish it on the website, post it at the church entrance, and/or have your pastor share it at Mass.

When your sister parish representatives visit have them tell their story.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers have some great videos out called the Third Wave of Mission that address cultural differences. Have an evening gathering and show them or use them in your PSR and school. Missions International has copies if you need them.

How do we get others involved?

Get to know the people of your parish. Spend time listening to them and personally invite individuals to join you with a small task like making a picture board or writing a petition.

We plant the seed and let God do the rest. Remember that we sometimes don't know how we have impacted others.

Additional ideas: