

CST 101 CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

A discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, “Help Us Build Communities in Keeping with God’s Vision of Justice.”

WATCH: “CST 101: Call to Family, Community and Participation” on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“[Jesus] unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable
to the Lord.’” (Luke 4:17-19)

SHARE:

As members of families and communities, how can we participate together in Christ’s mission?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

“While building up the Church in love, the Christian family places itself at the service of the human person and the world, really bringing about the ‘human advancement’ whose substance was given in summary form in the Synod’s Message to families: ‘Another task for the family is to form persons in love and also to practice love in all its relationships, so that it does not live closed in on itself, but remains open to the community, moved by a sense of justice and concern for others, as well as by a consciousness of its responsibility towards the whole of society.’”

—St. John Paul II, *The Family in the Modern World (Familiaris Consortio)*, no. 64



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

“Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . . Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds.”

—Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')*, nos. 179, 219

DISCUSS:

- In our families and faith communities, how can we cultivate a sense of responsibility for building a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected?
- How does your own participation in one or more communities enable you to contribute toward creating a global community in God’s vision of justice?

ACT:

Read about [St. Peter Claver parish](#), in West Baltimore, which seeks to bring faith into conversation with surrounding realities, including violence, racism and policing. In your family, neighborhood, school or faith community, how might you be called to act with others to help shape our local and global communities in God’s vision of justice?

SEND:

Creator God, help us to join with others as disciples who seek to live the Gospel and transform our communities. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

Visit crs.org/CST-101 or wearesaltandlight.org/CST101 for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.



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