

Organizing a Global Solidarity Ministry Team in Your Parish: A Step-by-Step Method for Leaders

INTRODUCTION

Sitting in safe, comfortable homes, it is hard to imagine the daily life and death struggle half the world's population faces due to gut wrenching poverty. However, for a people claiming Christianity and who seriously wrestle with what our faith demands, an annoyingly relentless Holy Spirit constantly whispers transforming messages. At some point, and most of the time it's impossible to pin-point when, there's a breakthrough. Eyes see differently and hearts feel more deeply. Suddenly, "half the world's population" turns into "our family". Newly understood compassion compels us to respond and, with a strong desire to do so with some others. Instinctively, my parish becomes the vehicle. Then, *paralysis*.... "What the heck happens next?" becomes the question. This essay proposes that the answer to the question is to organize a "Global Solidarity Ministry Team" in the parish. What follows, are step-by-step instructions for doing so.

VISION

A clear vision of a parish "Global Solidarity Ministry Team" is the starting point for the construction project. It is impossible to build what you can't imagine. Positively stated... it is possible to build only what can be clearly imagined. The vision of a Global Solidarity Ministry Team is a **simple but informative description** of the team and what it will do. It is meant to answer the very legitimate question fellow parishioners will have: "What is the *(Insert parish name)* "Global Solidarity Ministry Team"? The answer is...

"Our *Global Solidarity Team* is a team of 10 – 15 leaders in the parish who will help the rest of the parish (1.) understand, (2.) embrace and (3.) act on the Catholic Social Teaching themes, "the call to global solidarity" and the "preferential option for and with the poor". Among other activities it may choose, the team will do that in a special way by assisting the rest of the parish support the work of Catholic Relief Services."

TEAM CONSTRUCTION

(*Note*: The author assumes that a Global Solidarity Team does not exist in the parish. The steps that follow, builds a team from scratch. If your parish does have such a team or some fragment of one, use these steps to assess that team's 'structural integrity'.)

Building a Global Solidarity Ministry Team is done in three phases:

1. *The Preparation Phase...*

The focus of this phase is completing several steps **leading to** the recruitment of the members of the team.

2. *The Recruitment Phase...*

This phase is done when 8 – 10 parishioners have made a two year commitment to be on the Global Solidarity Ministry Team.

3. *The Launch or Initial Meeting Phase...*

The Launch Phase consists of the first three meetings of the team (and, of course, the completion of several tasks generated at those meetings).

Preparation Phase Steps...

1. Study the above vision. Have a clear picture of what it is. Understand it.
 2. Identify and recruit a partner. This person will serve as a co-leader with you. This should be someone you know from the parish who has a similar desire to act or is open to the possibility. She/he can be from your JustFaith group, a small faith group, a fellow choir member, a friend or neighbor, etc. Talk to her/him about your desire to act on the call to global solidarity and why you feel that way. Share this essay to be reassuring that a successful methodology for organizing a team does exist. The road map only needs to be followed. Ask what she/he thinks and feels. Get a commitment of one year.
 3. Set up an appointment with the pastor and meet with him. Clearly describe what you would like to do (the vision). Share this essay with him. Be clear that you are asking him to do the following:
 - Give his public support of the effort by making appropriate announcements from the pulpit and in the bulletin.
 - Receive regular communication from you in order to stay updated on the team's activity.
 - Provide permissions and endorsements in a timely manner.
- Be clear that you are gladly willing to do the following:
- Seek appropriate permissions about elements of the work in a timely manner.

- Provide regular updates (written, if needed) to him and the parish on the work of the team.
 - Coordinate with any other social ministry and liturgical efforts in the parish.
 - Work within an agreed upon budget.
4. Write a bulleting announcement describing the team and the pastor's endorsement. Include an invitation for anyone interested to join the team. Provide contact information. However, (and this is very important) *please do not expect to get any responses or volunteers*. It rarely works that way! Effective recruitment is a planned action that includes a personal ask. This step (# 4) is simply and primarily to inform the parish about a really cool effort being created. In addition, if the pastor is willing, he can announce the intention to organize a parish "Global Solidarity Team" at an appropriate time during a Eucharistic liturgy. However, this is not necessary if he is reluctant.
 5. With the co-leader (and the pastor if he would like and, perhaps, the parish secretary), create a list of 15 – 20 names of parishioners you think would be good to make up the team. Be creative! Think beyond the usual suspects. Generate names by searching through a variety of parishioner pools such as small faith groups, new parishioners, sacramental preparation classes, recent adult catechists, Catholics within immigrant groups in the parish, youth and young adult groups, any people who may have responded to the bulleting announcement, etc...

Divide the master list into two lists of 6 names each (one list for each co-leader). Agree to make 6 calls: 2 per week over a 3 week period. Set up a meeting in 3 weeks between the two of you to provide an accounting of progress made on the calls.

With lists in hand, you are now 'prepared' to move to Phase II, the *Recruitment Phase*.

Recruitment Phase Steps...

1. Sit down and **have a meeting with yourself**. Doing this, you will build your self confidence for asking a selected person to join the ministry team. In your "self-meeting", first, make sure you are clear about the vision of the ministry team. Second, imagine yourself walking through your conversation with the potential team member... what kinds of questions she/he might ask. Third, say a little prayer to

remind yourself that the Holy Spirit will be with you.

2. Make the call or visit...
 - Identify yourself as a representative of your parish and that you have the blessing of your pastor.
 - Ask for a few minutes to discuss a new effort being done in the parish.
 - Describe the Global Solidarity Team and its mission/purpose.
 - State that the person with whom you are speaking was identified by _____ as someone who might be interested in helping with the work.
 - State that you are asking for a 1 – 2 year commitment at this time.
 - Invite questions, comments and reactions.
 - If the answer is yes. Express excitement and appreciation. Explain that you and the co-leader are in the process of calling potential members and building the team. State that you will call back in a month or less to report progress and give a date for the first team meeting. (The newly recruited person may have additional names for the team. Take them if they are offered.)
 - If the answer is “I need to think it over”, express excitement and appreciation. Ask when you can call back for an answer.
 - If the answer is no, express appreciation and ask if you can call back in 6 months to see if there’s been a change in mind. Give your contact information in case your potential member re-considers.
3. Go through the same process with each name on your list.
4. Call the co-leader if you need the support or you want to talk through a situation you encountered. Feel free to do this any time during this phase.
5. In a week, make any call-backs you agreed to during your recruitment call or visit.
6. Attend your pre-arranged co-leader meeting. Report on the progress of your calls. Keep two lists: (1.) Who agreed to be on the team; (2.) Who did not agree at this time but is open to a future invitation.
7. **This phase is only completed when a minimum of 8 people (10 is better) have agreed to be on the team.** If the initial list is exhausted before reaching the magic number of 8, start a new round of recruitment calls using the same process beginning with a list of potential recruits.

It is critical NOT to move into action before the minimum number of core team members is reached. This “rule of success” ensures long-term viability.

8. When the team is established, set a date for the first meeting. Inform the new members of the date. It is obviously better if the step of setting the date includes the new members. If at all possible, you want the full team. E-mail is fine.
9. Congratulations!!! The *Recruitment Phase* is completed! Well done!

Launch Phase Steps (This phase includes the first three meetings of the new, parish Global Solidarity Team.)...

1. Plan the team’s first meeting. (The agenda for the meeting is **Appendix 1.**)
 - Divide the meeting agenda into segments. Co-leaders agree on assigned segments. Rehearse if desired.
 - Send the agenda to the members as a meeting reminder. Make sure date, time and location are included.
2. Conduct the first meeting. Establishing a spirit of hospitality is important. Please keep in mind that the agenda of the meeting is the critical part, however. (In other words, don’t get overly focused on the snacks and then conduct a bad meeting!) Call to mind your own experience... a well run meeting, honoring the timeframe is another “rule of success”. New members will appreciate and respect that. They will want to return!

In this first meeting you will want to accomplish two things:

- Participants get a good formation session on the Catholic Social Teaching theme, “the Call to Global Solidarity” and how Catholic Relief Services can be a very concrete vehicle for responding to that call.
 - Participants receive a clear description of the parish Global Solidarity Ministry Team vision and framework.
3. Co-leaders de-brief the meeting. Identify what went right and what needs to be improved in the second meeting. This step does not need to be more than 20 minutes.

4. Plan and conduct the second meeting. (**Appendix # 2**)

Participants will want to walk away from this meeting with two things:

- Some additional formation on the call to global solidarity;
- An understanding of potential '**ministry focus areas**' or specific global solidarity ministries the team will undertake for the next year.

5. De-brief meeting # 2.

6. Plan and conduct the third meeting of the team. (**Appendix # 3**)

At the conclusion of this meeting, one primary objective will have been accomplished:

- Participants will have gotten together in their "focus ministry area" and completed some initial planning for the work of the group.

7. De-brief meeting # 3.

8. The 'Launch Phase' is complete. Your team is ready and a sacred, fulfilling journey has begun.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Because I've witnessed it, I am quite confident that these organizing steps can bring success if followed. However, I do not claim in any way that they (steps) are the only ones that can be successfully utilized. In fact, I encourage creativity and experimentation. You know your parish. If one takes a moment to reflect on these steps, it's clear that the process described is mainly about being systematic, disciplined and simply using good common sense. It's also smart, though, to also listen to that wise little voice in our heads, rooted in experience, reminding us that good planning (i.e. being systematic) and discipline is often skipped or shoved aside because a burning fire in the gut, lit by the flame of transformation, wrongly urges us to act too quickly. In addition, we often forget what our moms and dads taught us about common sense because we are totally convinced that our point of view is absolutely right.

To counter such mistakes, here's the best advice I have to offer (but be warned... it's pretty technical): *STOP THE ABSOLUTIST STUFF! RELAX! IT'S NOT BASEBALL BUT, MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE IS STILL A LOT OF FUN! JUST ENJOY THE EFFORT AND EACH OTHER!*

Global Solidarity Ministry Team: Meeting # 1

Meeting 1

Objectives:

1. To receive formation on the Catholic Social Teaching theme of the call to global solidarity and how Catholic Relief Services is a primary vehicle to concretize that call.
2. To clarify the vision and activity or work of the parish global solidarity ministry team.
3. To clarify the immediate future of the ministry team.

A G E N D A

Opening (allow 15 minutes)

1. Welcome participants and have people introduce themselves with name, how long in the parish and who's in their immediate family.
2. State the objectives for the meeting.
3. Recite the opening prayer together. (One possible prayer to use is located in **Appendix 4.**)

Formation (allow 45 minutes)

1. For this session, invite the CRS diocesan director to give a presentation on the Catholic Social Teaching theme, "call to solidarity" and what Catholic Relief Services is. Be clear to request a description of the programs CRS offers and how, through those programs, CRS is a vehicle to concretize that call. Allow time for questions.
2. Give participants the handout providing a brief description of the CRS programs. (**Appendix 5**) Explain that the team will be selecting 2 – 4 of these programs as its ministry. State that this leads into the next part of the meeting which is to clarify the vision and work of the global solidarity ministry team.

Ministry Team Vision and work... *(It is recommended that the CRS diocesan director be invited to remain during this portion of the meeting. There may be questions with which she/he can assist.)*

1. Distribute a copy of the global solidarity ministry team vision description (with "ministry focus areas" offered in **Appendix # 6**.)
2. Have team members read it quietly. After 1 minute, ask someone to read the vision portion (not the "ministry focus areas" menu) out loud.
3. Invite reactions to the statement by asking the focus question: "What do you find especially striking about this description?"
4. Explain the following:
 - That as the vision statement indicates, the work of the team will include forming "ministry focus areas" selected from the menu included on the vision statement.

(It should be noted that these CRS related focus areas are offered at this point in the team's development simply because they are proven programs that are both effective and relatively easy to implement. Other "ministry focus areas" may also surface in the future.)

- These "ministry focus areas" is where the bulk of the global solidarity ministry team action will take place. The primary role of the global solidarity ministry team in the future will be to coordinate and communicate to the parish the "ministry focus area" work.
- Members of the global solidarity ministry team will be expected to select a "ministry focus area" of personal interest at the next meeting.
- Ask if there are any clarifying questions regarding any of the "ministry focus areas".
- Close this section of the meeting by inviting participants to pray about which "ministry focus area" they will choose to lead. Each member will be asked to make that choice at the next meeting.

Closing

1. Set the date for the next meeting. (It is recommended that the meeting be within the month. Some teams have set the date within two weeks. There is a strong desire to keep up the momentum. Do what is reasonable.)

2. Ask members to read the "Forward", "Introduction" and Chapter 5 of the book, *Solidarity Will Transform the World* by Jeffry Odell Korgen. (Copies can be ordered through **storiesofhope.crs.org**. Look for the link.
3. Have a brief closing prayer.

NOTE: It is helpful to remind members of the meeting via e-mail or telephone one week in advance of the agreed upon meeting date.

Global Solidarity Team Meeting 2

A G E N D A

Opening (allow 15 minutes)

1. Warmly welcome participants
2. State the objectives for the meeting (See Step 4, above).
3. Recite the opening prayer together. (Feel free to use the same prayer from Meeting 1.)

Formation (allow 40 minutes)

1. Invite members to state what struck them about the reading from the book *in light of the ministry journey they are about to take*.
2. Invite participants to locate a favorite passage from the assigned reading. Ask for volunteers, one at a time, to read and explain why it was chosen. Not everyone has to share.
3. Ask participants to state what they find hopeful and exciting about the ministry journey the team is about to embark upon.

"Ministry Focus Area" selection (allow up to 50 minutes but it may not take that long.)

1. Ask members to retrieve their "Vision Statement and Ministry Focus Areas" sheet from last meeting. (Have a few extra copies just in case!)
2. Ask if there are any questions for clarification about either the "ministry focus areas" or the process. (Keep the CRS program description sheet handy.)
3. Invite each member to select the "ministry focus area" she/he would like to work on. Make this really "public" (everyone sees what

everyone else is choosing).

After all the choices are made, have members gather in their chosen "ministry focus area" sub-group. When completed, if there are single person "ministry focus area" groups, ask if those people are comfortable with leading that area alone. Give them an opportunity to join a different group for now. Emphasize that the members of the Global Solidarity Ministry team will serve as the leaders for the "ministry focus area". Also state that it is acceptable and encouraged to recruit other parishioners into the "ministry focus area" group. This will be clearer when members look at the "Planning Worksheet".

When that is completed, hand out the planning worksheet. (**Appendix # 7**) Invite the groups to each read the worksheet and discuss it. Encourage questions. (NOTE: Allow this to be a bit of a free for all... within the limits of a tolerable noise level. Participants will enjoy this part and there may be a lot of talk. This is a good thing.) Encourage members of the group to volunteer to do some research on worksheet questions in preparation for the next meeting.

Explain that the task this evening is to select the "ministry focus group" and become familiar with the worksheet and to assign some research action.

Closing

1. Set the date for the next meeting. (Because some action research may be going on, a meeting in a month is encouraged. However, the date ought not to be further away than that month.)
2. Brief closing prayer.

Global Solidarity Ministry Team Meeting 3

A G E N D A

Opening (allow 15 minutes)

1. Warmly welcome participants
2. State the objectives for the meeting (See Step 6, above).
3. Recite the opening prayer together. (Feel free to use the same prayer from Meeting 1.)

Formation (allow 30 minutes)

1. Invite members to silently read the Introduction to, "Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes" the U.S. bishops statement on global solidarity.
2. Invite participants to share what most strikes them about the statement and why.
3. Ask participants to share what conclusions they might draw from the statement in light of the global solidarity ministry team's journey.

Ministry Focus Area Planning (Allow 40 minutes)

1. Have participants gather into their respective "ministry focus area" groups.
2. Using the planning sheets, each group plans the activity of the group for the year.

Large Group Reports (Allow up to 8 minutes in total)

- Each team reports back to the full Global Solidarity Ministry Team the tasks (only) that the "ministry focus area" group will

be doing over the next year.

- Allow clarifying questions after each report. However, this is not the time to debate or make further suggestions. If anyone has any suggestions, those should be given to the team leader during a time separate from this report out. **It is critical that these reports be crisply done and simply to fill in the rest of the team.**

Closing

1. Set the date for the next meeting. This should begin the practice of meeting as a Global Solidarity Ministry Team ever 2 – 3 months.

NOTE: Those meetings need to be designed to:

- Coordinate the work;
- Provide formation on global solidarity;
- Provide for common training needs;
- Evaluate the effort annually;
- Add or drop “ministry focus areas”.

2. Brief closing prayer.

NOTE: *The Global Solidarity Ministry Team leaders should report progress back to the pastor and recommend to him a mechanism to keep the rest of the parish informed about the team’s work.*

Opening Prayer

Awesome God of the immense universe.
Intimate God at home in each human heart.
Energizing, loving God, draw us together in global solidarity.

God of many names,
God of no name,
Father, Mother,
We thank you and we praise you!
Forgive us for every time and every way
That we separate ourselves from our sisters and brothers in whose hearts
you dwell through other images, other experiences, cultures and revelations.
We long for the fullness that can only come through solidarity with you and
our 'neighbors'.

Break us free from the idolatry of wealth and consumption.
These keep us from "Thy Kingdom Come!"

God of many names,
God of no name,
Mother, Father,
Alert us to your way of reconciliation, justice and love.

Amen!

Adapted from CRS' Prayer Without Borders: celebrating global wisdom

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES Parish Involvement

(All websites below can be found through CRS main site www.crs.org) Dec. 06

CRS offers a variety of ways for Catholics here in the United States to get involved. Our programs and resources for education, direct action, advocacy, partnership and service are aimed at helping you to respond to the U.S. Bishops' call to form bonds of global solidarity.

Fair Trade: Coffee

Catholic Relief Services works overseas to provide assistance to struggling low-income coffee farmers. Here in the United States, CRS supports those farmers by promoting Fair Trade—an alternative system of international trade that is rooted in the principles of human dignity, economic justice and global solidarity.

http://www.crsfairtrade.org/coffee_project/index.htm

Fair Trade: Chocolate

Divine Fair Trade chocolate is made using only 100% Fair Trade Certified cocoa grown by the more than 35,000 members of Kuapa Kokoo, a cocoa farmers' association in southern Ghana. They also own one-third of Day Chocolate, the company that owns the Divine brand. As owners, Kuapa's farmers sit on the company's Board of Directors, share in its profits and participate in the business decisions that affect them as cocoa farmers and human beings. By contrast, most of the world's cocoa farmers sell their annual harvest on local markets, capturing none of the wealth created by the lucrative global chocolate trade. Support the farmer owned co-op and buy fair trade chocolate!

http://www.crsfairtrade.org/chocolate_project/index.cfm

Fair Trade: Work of Human Hands

Fair Trade means that the people from low-income people from around the globe who produce hand-made, high-quality items earn a fair price, get access to credit and training, and maintain long-term relationships with A Greater Gift and CRS that is rooted in the principles of human dignity and economic justice.

http://www.crsfairtrade.org/work_of_human_hands/index.htm

Legislative Advocacy

This site presents resources on a number of legislative issues that CRS is focusing on at any given time.

http://actioncenter.crs.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ac_homepage . Legislative alerts will be sent out to the network as issues arise in Congress and in particular as they relate to CRS's work helping the poor and vulnerable in developing countries. The three main legislative campaigns are listed below.

1. [Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty](#) - The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services invite Catholics throughout the U.S. to join this campaign as we advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world.
2. [Africa Rising, Hope and Healing!](#) - Drawing from CRS' work with partners in more than 30 African countries, this multi-year campaign calls Catholics in the U.S. to awareness, solidarity and action on behalf of the people of Africa.
3. [Justice for Immigrants](#) - CRS, along with Migration and Refugee Services, the USCCB and other national Catholic agencies, is working to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions and individuals in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform. Its goal will be to maximize the Church's influence on this issue, consistent with the immigration reform principles expressed in the bishops' pastoral letter.

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl embraces the themes of Lent and invites participants to [pray](#) with their families and faith communities, [fast](#) in solidarity with those who are hungry, [learn](#) about our brothers and sisters around the world, and [give](#) sacrificial contributions to the poor. <http://orb.crs.org/index.cfm>

Youth Programs

Justice education for high school students and teachers:

<http://education.crs.org/>. Several other programs are listed in this site

1. **Food Fast:** Let's build solidarity through prayer. Pray with youth groups who are holding a Food Fast retreat this month. Challenge the youth in your parish or school to help end global hunger! Food Fast connects youth in a personal way to the struggles and the faith of their brothers and sisters around the world who go without food each day. <http://www.foodfast.org>
2. **Cyberbridges:** Cyber Bridges aims to promote global community leadership in youth populations by connecting and building intercultural relationships, raising global awareness and promoting leadership between an American Catholic youth constituency and marginalized youth from CRS overseas programs. Cyber Bridges will facilitate communication utilizing but not reliant on Internet technology. Common training events, collaborative project work and face-to-face interactions where feasible will be included. There will be exchanges using email, web postings, and classroom discussion. More information at <http://cyberbridges.crs.org/>.
3. **Called to Witness:** An immersion program, in partnership with the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, Called to Witness provides *Catholic youth ministers* in the United States with a global experience to help them call and empower young people to an active commitment to working for justice, peace and human dignity. http://www.crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/united_states/immersion_trips/called_to_witness/overview.cfm

Global Solidarity Partnerships (*also Parish-to-Parish Twinning*)

CRS engages U.S. Catholics more directly in its work and demonstrates how the agency builds capacity with its working partners overseas by partnering a U.S. Diocese with one in one of the countries in which we work. Through these partnerships, groups in the U.S. and overseas learn from each other, support projects, participate in exchange visits, share their faith, and take greater action in the U.S. on behalf of the world's poor.

NOTE TO PARISH LEADERS: *A comprehensive training package on how to create and maintain a parish to parish ("twinning") partnership has recently been completed. See the "Parish Partnership Manual" in the Diocesan Directors' Toolkit for detail*

Global Fellows

The Global Fellows program empowers seminarians, priests, and deacons to preach about global justice and peace for the purpose of engaging Catholics in the U.S. in global solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable around the world.

http://www.crs.org/get_involved/at_church/Global_Fellows/index.cfm

Food Resources Bank

The program is an ecumenical partnership that engages faith-based groups in supporting agricultural, growing projects around the world. Through the CRS and FRB partnership, farmers can donate a portion of their land to a special program for one year, dedicating the proceeds from the crops harvested to this program. These proceeds are then used by CRS and FRB to fund overseas agricultural development programs that provide critical farming supplies for struggling farmers and communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Typical supplies purchased by the proceeds include hoes, seed, and other necessities that help these farmers become self sufficient by growing the food they need to sustain their families.

http://www.crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/united_states/home_or_parish_base_d/foods_resource_bank/index.cfm

CRS Project Catalog

The project catalog offers you a glimpse of 34 projects in 21 countries. This catalog reports directly how donations feed the poor through agricultural and food projects; promote better health through HIV and AIDS and other health projects; builds society through peace building and civil society projects and promotes self-sufficiency through education and small loan projects. www.crsgift.org

Volunteers/Lay Mission Overseas

The goal of the CRS Volunteer Program is to provide avenues for U.S. Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the world's poor by actively sharing their skills and talents through CRS. Volunteers make a full-time, two-year commitment, of which 18 months is spent overseas and 6 months in the United States.

http://www.crs.org/about_us/careers/volunteer_opportunities/index.cfm#what_is

Campus Connection

Website for Campus Ministers and Social Justice Offices for colleges and universities to connect with CRS and all its resources.

<http://www.crscampusconnection.org/>

Global Solidarity Ministry Team

Vision and "Focus Ministry Area" Menu

Vision Statement

"Our Global Solidarity Team is a team of 10 – 15 leaders in the parish who will help the rest of the parish (1.) understand, (2.) embrace and (3.) act on the Catholic Social Teaching themes, "the call to global solidarity" and the "preferential option for and with the poor". Among other activities it may choose, the team will do that in a special way by assisting the rest of the parish support the work of Catholic Relief Services."

"Ministry Focus Area" Menu of Options

Select your top two choices by indicating them with '1' (first choice) and '2' (second choice). [Refer to the 'Catholic Relief Services Parish Involvement' sheet for descriptions.]

- Global Solidarity legislative advocacy
- Organize or strengthening Operation Rice Bowl
- Organize a parish partnership ("twinning") with a poor parish overseas
- Organize a Food Fast event (for youth)
- Organize Fair Trade/ Work of Human Hands events
- Join the Foods Resource Bank
- Promote the Annual CRS Collection
- Participate in a Called to Witness program
- Organize a High School Peer Ministry Global Solidarity Program
- Organize a Middle School/High School Global Solidarity Week

Global Solidarity Ministry Team

"Ministry Focus Area" Planning Worksheet

Instructions:

Wrestle with and answer the following questions with other members of the 'ministry focus area' group. The extent to which the questions are fully answered, that is the extent to which the work of the group will be planned. CAUTIONARY NOTE: Do not search for the perfect answer... "good" will suffice. After all, planning paralysis is not the goal of the exercise; action is.

- What is the simple purpose of this "ministry focus area"? *(Use 3 sentences or less to describe.)*

- Does this project duplicate or include overlapping elements with any other parish activity? If so, describe.

- What are **4 primary** objectives that need to be accomplished **this year** in order to make this project work?

- What are 3 primary tasks that need to be done for each objective identified, above, to accomplish those objectives?

- Name 5 additional parishioners that you could invite to be a member of this “ministry focus group”. (**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE**: Before recruiting those people, share your list with the Global Solidarity Ministry Team leaders to avoid making duplicate calls [and annoying the person you want to recruit.]