



Symbols of Solidarity

The *Symbols of Solidarity* are designed as a procession before or during Mass or at other gatherings. The procession of each symbol starts as a narrator or reader begins each section, and ends at the front of the church or room. Allow brief pauses between symbols to create a dramatic effect. The full activity takes between 10-15 minutes. Depending on the amount of time you have for your procession, you can either use all of the symbols or just some of them.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

✓ **A place to put the symbols** after they are processed in. This might be around the altar, on a table decorated for the purpose or a special area in the room where the procession will take place.

The following symbols:

- 1) **A small radio** to represent *Citizen Participation and Peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*.
- 2) **A glass jar filled with dirt** to represent *Ecological Justice in Peru*.
- 3) **A jar of homemade pickles or preserves** to represent *Equality Between Men and Women in Afghanistan*.
- 4) **A piece of photo ID** to represent *Management and Control of Natural Resources in Cambodia*.

We would love to feature photos of your community doing the Symbols of Solidarity on our website! Please send any photos you would like to share to sharelent@devp.org!

You may wish to have a different person read each section below or just have one narrator for the whole procession.

Procession introduction

Human Dignity is at the heart of Catholic social teaching. Each and every one of us is made in God's image. This is true no matter where we are born, what language we speak, or if we are rich or poor. The poor are more than just a social problem requiring a technical solution. The poverty and injustice they suffer is an invitation for us to recognize our common human dignity and to work with them for a better world. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE accepts this invitation every day by supporting our brothers and sisters throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. We are proud to call them our partners and to share some of their work for a brighter future with you today. We present our *Symbols of Solidarity*:

1st Symbol: A small radio

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports **Community Radio of the Congo** to develop **Citizen Participation and Peacebuilding** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Over 6 million people in the last 10 years have been killed in this resource-rich country. Community Radio of the Congo is a network of community radio stations that reaches 2.5 million people in Katanga and Orientale provinces alone and broadcasts in over 10 local languages. In the last two years, seven stations have produced 15,000 episodes promoting civic education. This is having a positive impact in encouraging peace between ethnic groups and increasing the democratic participation of the population.

2nd Symbol: A small glass jar filled with dirt

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports the **Episcopal Commission on Social Action, or CEAS (pronounced SAY-as)**, to promote **Ecological Justice in Peru**. La Oroya, a city in the Andean mountains, has been named as one of the most polluted places on the face of the earth due to a nearby smelting operation. CEAS helped to organize soil and blood tests to give evidence of dangerous toxicity levels in the community. This contributed to the closure of the smelter for three years until environmental norms to protect the community were put in place. Archbishop Barreto, the vice-president of CEAS, tells us: “The people of Peru, its workers and residents, must share in the benefits of the extractive industries and not be harmed by these activities.”

3rd Symbol: A jar of homemade pickles or preserves

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports the **AWRC, The Afghan Women’s Resource Centre**, to promote **Equality Between Men and Women in Afghanistan**. Ms. Gulandam is a 50-year-old woman with 12 children who lives in the province of Kapisa. In a society where women have few rights and there is cultural resistance to their participation in the workforce, there were few opportunities for her to be able to provide for her family. For the last six years, the AWRC has been the only organization working with women and girls in this region. The AWRC was able to provide training for Ms. Gulandam and she became the group leader of a local women’s business that produces pickles, vegetable sauce and peppers. “I am proud to be working and running a small business in my village,” she said. “I’m proud that I can help my family and other women in the community.”

4th Symbol: A piece of photo ID

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports **DPA, Development and Partnership In Action**, in helping communities defend their right to the fair **Management and Control of Natural Resources in Cambodia**. Indigenous communities are often the last to have ownership of their ancestral land recognized, despite being the first to live on that land. Cambodia’s indigenous communities understand this reality all too well. To fight this insecurity, DPA is working with indigenous communities to help them obtain legal identity certificates. This is an important step in the process of obtaining community land titles. These certificates help protect the community from those who wish to exploit the resource-rich land for their own benefit.



“With a legal identity certificate, I can legally transfer my land to my children,” said Mr. Khum Peak, who has 2.5 hectares of land for farming and rice cultivation. He knows that his children will not have to live with the same injustices that he did.

Conclusion

Through these *Symbols of Solidarity* we affirm the dignity of each and every person. We stand in solidarity with those who work each and every day to defend this dignity - the partners of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE. Through their efforts, and with your support, we can continue to develop democracy, peace, ecological justice, equality, and security together as one human family.

We invite you to learn more about DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE through the materials we have available for you today.

Let us end in prayer:

Loving God, we ask you to nurture the solidarity between all peoples of the world, especially between rich and poor. Let us always remember that when we look into the face of another human being, we encounter your image. May these symbols be witnesses to the human dignity you have granted each and every one of us.

Send your Spirit to bless the work of our partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Peru, in Afghanistan, in Cambodia and in all other parts of the world touched by the work of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.

Make us faithful witnesses to the call of our Lord, your son, Jesus Christ. May we join together with Him in building your kingdom, where justice and peace reign in the hearts of all your children.

Amen.