



## *St. Charles Borromeo Parish*

# ***SOLIDARITY WITH ALL GOD'S PEOPLE***

## ***Opening Prayer Service***

Fifth  
Sunday  
of Lent

### **Listen**

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this.

But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If (one) part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

*(1 Corinthians 12:12,14-26)*

### **Respond**

As we enjoy our abundance of wealth and freedoms, We pray for people and nations who suffer injustice. May they be freed from their oppression.

**Response:** *Hear your people's plea, Lord.*

As we celebrate the joys of creation, We pray for the people who are denied their share. May the earth and everything in it be for the benefit of all human beings.

**Response:** *Hear your people's plea, Lord.*

As we benefit from the products and resources available for us to purchase, We pray for so many of the producers and workers who are deprived of their just reward. May all created goods flow freely for all.

**Response:** *Hear your people's plea, Lord.*

### **Prayer**

O Creator, our world is large, and yet the global community is so fragile.

We glimpse the needs of our sisters and brothers, and those needs are great.

We want to turn away, but you call us back.

We want simple solutions, but you want us to help solve the complex problems.

Through your church, you call us to listen, to learn, to reflect, and to act.

Give us a deep sense of our place in this web of creation.

Give us wisdom and generosity of heart so that all children of God might live in dignity and peace.

Amen.