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Welcome to the **Global Catholicism Prayer ministry,** part of your parish Global Solidarity Ambassador Program. Thank you for saying, “Yes,” to spreading the Gospel message to “Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And to love your Neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

Pope Francis has said, “In the poor and outcast we see Christ’s face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ…Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution.” (*Lenten Message of Our Holy Father Francis, 2014*)

In your role as the Global Solidarity Ambassador for your parish’s Global Catholicism Prayer ministry, you have the opportunity to love and serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by bringing His love to others in your parish, your community and around the world through intercessory prayer.

In *The Joy of the Gospel* (No. 283) Pope Francis speaks to the critical role of intercessory prayer, “The great men and women of God were great intercessors. Intercession is like ‘a leaven in the heart of the Trinity.’ It is a way of penetrating the Father’s heart and discovering new dimensions which can shed light on concrete situations and change them. We can say that God’s heart is touched by our intercession, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people.”

Your leadership and coordination of the Global Catholicism Prayer ministry in your parish, in conjunction with the overall Global Solidarity Ambassador Program within the Archdiocese, will be an opportunity for you and your fellow parishioners to grow personally in faith and solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. It is a powerful way for you to participate in the temporal and eternal life-saving mission of Christ’s Church on earth.

In the following pages of this simple guide, you will find the tools that you need to launch and implement a successful Global Catholicism Prayer ministry in your parish. Updates and other resources and materials will be provided to you by Catholic Relief Services for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to help you effectively and confidently carry out your ambassador role. You will also receive pertinent information about global situations where the Catholic Church has a moral obligation to respond, so that you understand how the Church is taking positive action to assist and provide for those in need around the world. These intentions can then be incorporated into your intercessory prayer efforts.

In Solidarity,

Catholic Relief Services

Archdiocese of Indianapolis