



## SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY

The Symbols of Solidarity are designed to be a procession before or during Mass or at other gatherings. If you would like to propose that they be part of the procession of the offerings at Mass, it will be important to consult with the pastor or liturgy planning committee to see if it is possible.

This year, each of the suggested symbols comes to us from different members of a family – two children, a parent, and a grandparent, and we suggest that participants be chosen for this activity in that way.

The procession of each symbol starts as a narrator or reader begins each section, and it ends at the front of the church or room. You may wish to have just one narrator, or different voices (representing the different voices of the family) for each.

Allow brief pauses between symbols to create a dramatic effect. The entire activity takes between 10-15 minutes. The presenters of the symbols should remain at the front of the church or room where they will join hands after the presentation of the last symbol.

### **You will need:**

- A place to put the symbols after they are processed in – perhaps close to the sanctuary, on a table decorated for this purpose, or a special area in the room where the procession will take place.
- A bowl of earth (from the grandparent) to represent the past.
- Seeds (from the child) to represent the future.
- A hoe or other farming tool (from the parent) to represent the present.
- Paper dolls holding hands (from another a child) to represent the communal spirit of different families working together to end hunger through their collective action. (this simple children's craft can be made ahead of time).

## INTRODUCTION

This very day, nearly 1 billion people will go without the basic food and nourishment that they need. This daily scandal occurs despite the fact that the gifts of the earth, given to us by God, are enough to feed us all. With your support, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is working to overcome hunger by helping small family farmers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East to grow the food they need to feed their families and their communities. Today we present to you a ‘family’ of symbols to show that all of us have “Sow Much Love... to Give.”

### 1<sup>st</sup> symbol - a bowl of earth

Presented by a grandparent

I am a grandparent of this generation. This bowl of earth represents the labour of my years, which returns to the soil and enriches it for future harvests. Care for the soil is vital to the health of the farm. In Ethiopia, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports projects that help prevent soil erosion by using a system of terraced embankments to help capture and maintain moisture in the soil during times of drought.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> symbol - seeds

Presented by a child and planted in the bowl of earth

I am a child of this generation. These seeds represent the harvests of the future that will feed our families. Without seeds, the farmer has nothing. Seeds are saved and planted from one harvest to the next. In Brazil, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supported the creation of the country’s largest organic seed co-operative, with over 156 families.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> symbol - farming tool

Presented by a parent who symbolically touches the planted earth with it

I am a parent of this generation. This tool represents our loving and laborious care for our planted seeds. The fruit of the earth is the work of our human hands. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports farmers in Nigeria to receive training on everything from bookkeeping to field and crop management. With this training, they are able to improve the lives of their families. One farmer named Samuel says, “I used to own 300 chickens, now I have 700!”

### 4<sup>th</sup> Symbol - paper dolls holding hands

Presented by another child who places the dolls around the bowl and then joins hands with all the presenters to form a circle

I am the communal spirit of this generation. When typhoon Yolanda hit Tacloban in the Philippines, many women lost their husbands. They came together to form the Yolanda Survivors Women’s Association and, with the support of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, one of the first things they did was plant a communal garden. Little Jobert Pindos comes to the garden regularly with his mother. He is blind, but is nourished by the labour of his mother and the other survivors who have come to see how working together can build a brighter future for them all.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

We put these symbols of solidarity before you O God. We offer them in the knowledge that only when we co-operate with your loving plan for us, will we ever succeed in bringing an end to the scandal of global hunger. Help us always to Sow Much Love and to give of our time, talent, and treasure. May we become one human family where there is food for all. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.