



## Discovering Common Ground

In this icebreaker activity, each student will take a turn guessing a category of life experience he or she thinks everyone in the class shares in common. For example, has everyone in the class at some time moved to a new home? Or has everyone been camping?

Select a class recorder to keep track of the life experiences the class shares in common.



When a student suggests a category, everyone who has experienced this event will stand up. When the entire class stands, the class recorder will add that event to the running list.

Encourage creativity! And make sure that categories that refer to physical characteristics and biological processes are avoided.

The goal is to identify at least fifteen life experiences that everyone in the class shares in common.

**After the fifteen shared life experiences have been identified, invite the class to discuss the following:**

- 1** Describe what it felt like discovering life experiences that everyone in the class shared.
- 2** What did you learn about your classmates through this activity?
- 3** How does sharing things in common with one another strengthen class unity?
- 4** What would happen if people entrenched in conflict were to discover common ground?
- 5** Based on this activity, describe the power of solidarity.

*This activity is adapted from the eLearning program Understanding Catholicism: An Interactive Introduction to the Catholic Faith (Winona, MN: Saint Mary's Press, 2016). Copyright © 2016 Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.*