

# LIVING FAITH

30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
OCTOBER 25, 2020



## THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY

Matthew 22:34-40

### The Greatest Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, ‘ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

## REFLECTING ON THE WORD

The first reading and the Gospel are so very appropriate for our present day (and all times really). Though this reflection is on the Gospel, the reader would do well to also read the first reading from Exodus 22:20-26 for this 30th Sunday in OT. There, Moses relates to the people what God tells them as they arrive at Mt Sinai on the journey back to the promised land. There God tells the people that they must treat those who are “resident aliens” meaning, immigrants, migrants and people from other lands; in other words, those who are strangers to us. They are not to be wronged or oppressed. If there are any among them who are vulnerable, they are not to be harmed. Furthermore, if they are harmed, God will hear them when they cry out and God will punish the chosen people. Furthermore, God tells the people to not take financial advantage of those who are strangers. If anyone is without, then they must be given what they need to live safely and comfortably. This hospitality became a virtue of the chosen people and the culture of the middle east. It exists to this very day. God is a god of mercy and compassion to anyone who is oppressed and suffers.

This code of behaviour is in the heart and mind of God and gives us insight into how God views the world and all of its peoples. It is then followed by the Gospel of today when Jesus equates love of God, with full heart, mind and soul, with love of neighbour. One cannot claim to love God, if one does not love neighbour. You cannot love God if you do not love the other.

Today our world, is more divided along ideological, cultural and racial lines. The rise in nationalism has haunted human history and we see it continues to do so even today. Some say let us build walls and stronger borders to keep out the stranger, and those who are different from us and our way of life. This attitude is not in keeping with the Word of God.

The world is complex and the problems we face are a challenge to say they least. They do not have easy solutions. However, if we want to claim that we are Christians, then, hospitality, mercy, compassion extended to those who are not from our own families, neighbourhoods, cities and countries must be a virtue that guides all that we do.

In God’s kingdom, there are no walls, no locked doors. There is only an ear attuned to the cries of those who suffer and a hand extended in hospitality and mercy. If we do that, then we show our love for God.

# THE CHURCH TEACHES

We continue our exploration of Pope Francis' 3<sup>rd</sup> Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*



ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
Of the Holy Father Francis  
On fraternity and social friendship

## A STRANGER ON THE ROAD

**WHO ARE THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN?**

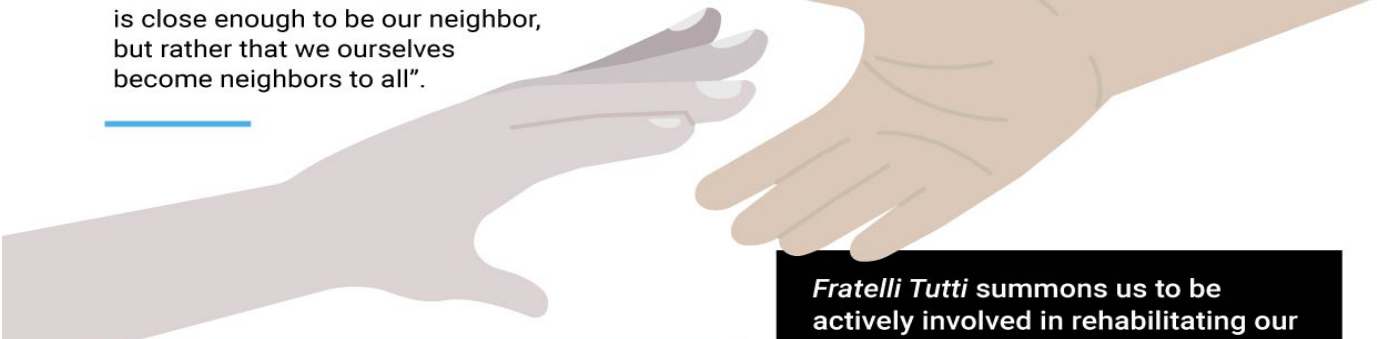
- ▶ THE ASSAILANTS
- ▶ THOSE WHO PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE
- ▶ THE WOUNDED AND ABANDONED VICTIM

In the face of this situation, *Fratelli tutti* asks us:



Which of these persons do you identify with? Who is your neighbor?

“Jesus asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbor, but rather that we ourselves become neighbors to all”.



***Fratelli Tutti* summons us to be actively involved in rehabilitating our wounded societies.**

TODAY THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN IS BEING REPEATED:

- 1 Appeals are made to determinism or fatalism to justify our own indifference.
- 2 Society tends to ignore others, especially the weak.
- 3 The world allows and encourages social exclusion.
- 4 We are witnessing social and political apathy.

Love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another:



FOR LOVE SHATTERS THE CHAINS THAT KEEP US ISOLATED AND SEPARATE; IN THEIR PLACE, IT BUILDS BRIDGES.

**WILL YOU PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE, OR WILL YOU STOP TO HELP THOSE WOUNDED ON THE ROADSIDE?**

In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan.

For the English text of this Encyclical click [here](#).



## AS WE PREPARE

### FOR THE FEASTS OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

Next weekend, we will celebrate the Feasts of All Saints (November 1) and All Souls (November 2). October 31, which many of us mark as “Hallowe’en” is the Eve of All Saints, or All Hallows Eve. We’ll have more on this in next weekend’s issue of Living Faith. To help you enter into these feasts, here is a graphic created by the Archdiocese of Toronto, which you might find helpful.



# Should Catholics Celebrate Halloween?



## HISTORY

Halloween is actually a **Christian celebration** that’s over 1,000 years old. All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day have been celebrated since the **early 8th century**, when they were first instituted by **Pope Gregory III** in Rome.

### “Halloween”

comes from

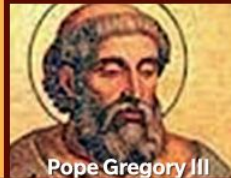
### “All Hallows Eve”

that refers to the night before All Hallows Day, also known as **All Saints Day**

### “hallow”

as a noun:  
an old English word for saint

as a verb:  
to make holy or to honour as holy



Pope Gregory III

As Catholics, we believe in the reality of evil. Before going to Halloween celebrations, why not recite the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel?

## TRADITIONS

The “supernatural” aspects of Halloween (like ghosts and demons) have their **roots** in Catholic belief. It was a popular belief that at certain times of the year, the veil separating earth from purgatory, heaven, and even hell, becomes thin, and the souls in purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen.

**Christians wore costumes to drive away evil spirits!**

## MAKING YOUR DECISION

If you choose to celebrate Halloween, remember its Christian origins.

**Tie the vigil to All Saints Day!**

A popular alternative to a Halloween celebration: **All Saints Party!** Also held on Halloween, but featuring costumes of saints.



**St. Michael the Archangel,**  
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

www.archtoronto.org  
archtoronto

SOURCE: Scott P. Richert  
<http://Catholicism.About.com>

# The Greatest Commandment

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" Matthew 22:37

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
V	P	M	T	I	K	S	C	H	N	X	F	W	R	Y	L	Z	G	D	A	B	E	O	J	Q	U

- 16-23-14-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-23-26-14-7-22-16-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-22-20-14-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-22-5-18-9-21-23-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-23-1-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-23-3-3-20-10-19-3-22-10-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-14-22-20-4-22-7-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-22-20-8-9-22-14 \_\_\_\_\_

GREATEST LORD	HEART COMMANDMENT	LOVE YOURSELF	NEIGHBOR TEACHER
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## World Mission Sunday October 18, 2020



Last week, the Church celebrated its annual World Mission Sunday. We wish to thank everyone who prayed for and were able to support the work of the missions last week. Your prayers and donations will make a huge contribution to the growth of the Church and to the well-being of the poor in the world. Please continue to pray for all those who serve in mission countries to bring Christ's message of love to the world's most vulnerable. Also, your generosity and support of the missions throughout the year would also be very much appreciated. With deep gratitude, we thank you again for your prayerful and financial support of World Mission Sunday 2020.

(Sister Rosemary Ryan, Director for the Pontifical Mission Societies)