

# LIVING FAITH

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 24, 2021



### THE GOSPEL TODAY (Mark 10:46-52)

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has made you well." Immediately the man regained his sight and followed on the way.

### TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

There is more to this gospel account than a blind man having his sight restored. It is also the story of the *relationship* between Jesus and Bartimaeus. It is not by chance that this blind man has a name; people in a relationship need to be able to call one another by name. (No other miracle story in the first three gospels gives the name of the person healed.) Here, the Gospel-writer hopes that we will see something of ourselves and our own story in Bartimaeus.

At the beginning, Bartimaeus is sitting on the side of the road, a blind beggar living in darkness and dependent on others for most everything. There is something strong and passionate in Bartimaeus' shouting out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." It gives us a sense of the longing or desire in Bartimaeus. Hearing his own name despite the noisy crowd, Jesus stops – perhaps he has heard the longing in Bartimaeus' cry. And Jesus *wants* to respond.

Bartimaeus "throws off his cloak" (symbolic of whatever might hinder someone from approaching Jesus), and he goes to Jesus. Jesus invites Bartimaeus to *say* what he wants: "Teacher, that I may see again." Again?... Has Bartimaeus somehow lost his way in life? In any case, Bartimaeus wants to *really* see, to know the meaning and purpose of his life. "Go," says Jesus, "your faith has made you well."

Bartimaeus was made well, because he **trusted** Jesus. That is faith. And the blind beggar sitting *beside* the way has become Bartimaeus, the friend and disciple of Jesus, *on* the way.

### TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- One person in the group read the gospel passage aloud, substituting the name of another person in the group for "Bartimaeus." [e.g As Jesus....leaving Jericho, **John** or **Jane**, a blind beggar.... Each time the name Bartimaeus comes up, say 'John' or 'Jane'...]
- What do you see in Bartimaeus that reminds you of yourself? OR Imagine yourself as Bartimaeus and retell the story (in your own words) from the point of view of Bartimaeus.

# Blind Bartimaeus



"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Mark 10:51 (NIV)

Words are taken from Mark 10:46-52 (NIV).

C I F J L E D I S C I P L E S  
 Z R S O A X A X C X U P K F B  
 K R S G L Z C I T Y Z H C L A  
 D A I Q I L R U Q I U E H G R  
 J B G W R F O O W U L A E X T  
 S B H X A E D W A I I L E Y I  
 B I T Y U C S I E D C E R N M  
 F A I T H U O Y L D S D T R A  
 L F E F S P C B Q Y N I O C E  
 P T D E E R V M E H I H D Q U  
 T T J K E E J V D G C S B E S  
 D P M M V P T W B I G S N R R  
 Y B L I N D O Y R H L I V T T  
 S H O U T R S E H T Y W N A I  
 B J J C C L J J U M P E D G E

Jericho	city	begging	cheer	faith
Jesus	blind	shout	jumped	healed
disciples	Bartimaeus	mercy	feet	sight
crowd	roadside	quiet	Rabbi	followed

## CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FALL CAMPAIGN

TOGETHER, LET'S ACT FOR THE PLANET  
AND ITS DEFENDERS!



Development and Peace's annual **People and Planet First** campaign is inspired by the words of Pope Francis, who says that "a true ecological approach *always* becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*" (*Laudato Si'*, 49). These cries are too often silenced by powerful companies that plunder resources in countries of the Global South, without regard for people's fundamental human and environmental rights. Many such companies are Canadian.

**Act to end their impunity now!** [Sign the petition](https://devp.org/en) asking the federal government to enact laws that will compel Canadian companies to conduct due diligence across their overseas operations and that will give the victims of their abuses access to justice in Canadian courts. Visit <https://devp.org/en>

## HAVE YOU HEARD? THE XVI SYNOD OF BISHOPS HAS BEGUN IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE



TO LEARN MORE, GO TO:

<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

Further details on the synodal process in the Archdiocese of St. John's will be available in the coming weeks in parish bulletins and in the Archdiocesan catechetical resource, *Living Faith*. Stay tuned next week for the link to the online survey!

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Rome, Pope Francis opened the two-year synodal journey of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with a time for encounter and reflection. The theme of the Synod is **for a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission**. We encourage you to view the coverage of the synod, and to browse the synod resources on the Vatican website [www.synod.va](http://www.synod.va).

Archbishop Peter Hundt officially opened the synod in the Archdiocese of St. John's on Sunday, October 17 with a special 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist.

In the coming weeks, the Archdiocese will be inviting responses to an online survey, and also inviting people to participate through various focus groups. The results of the survey and the focus groups will be collated and combined with the results of similar consultations in dioceses across Canada. This combined consultation report will be sent to Rome as a part of the Canadian Church's participation in this first phase of the synod.

## PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

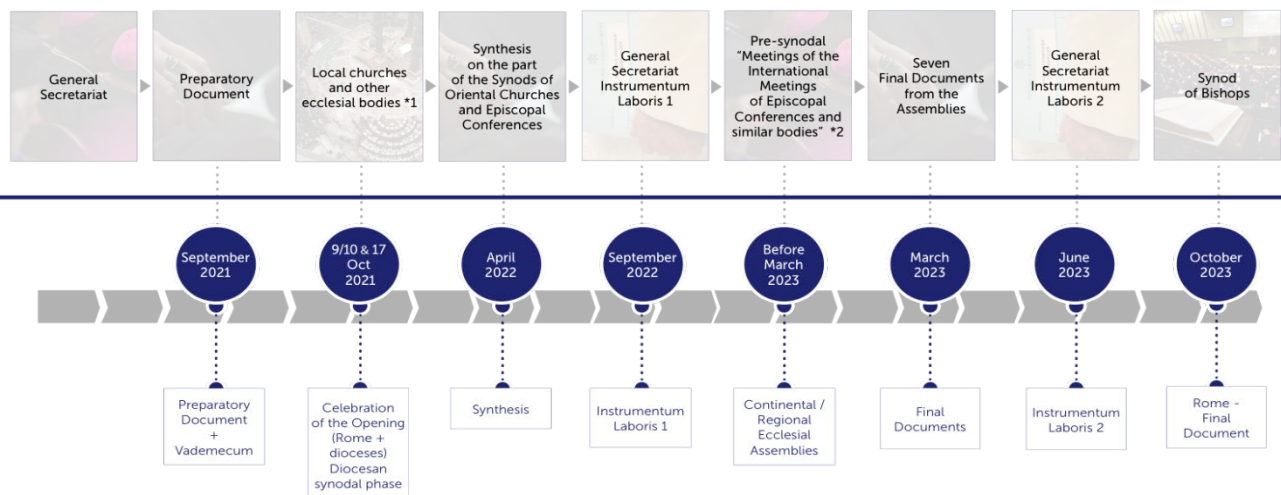
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



## HOW WILL THIS SYNODAL PROCESS PROCEED? WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED TIMELINES?

### FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS



\*1 Dicasteries, Consecrated Life (UISG-USG, UNIONS & FEDERATIONS), Associations of the Faithful, Institutions of Higher Education  
\*2 Africa (SECAM), Oceania (FCBCO), Asia (FABC), Middle East (CPCO), Europa (CEE), Latin America (CELAM), North America (USCCB+CCCCB)

