

LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 17, 2021



THE GOSPEL TODAY MARK 10: 35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And Jesus said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.”

Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

This gospel account comes just after Jesus has opened his heart to speak of his growing sense of impending doom. So James and John trying to out-manoeuvre the other disciples for places at Jesus’ right and left in his glory is obtuse and insensitive.

On the other hand, however much there is to criticize in the two disciples seeking power and prestige, at least they believed in Jesus. They are convinced that Jesus will set things right in Israel, which was under Roman occupation.

Jesus does not scold the disciples. Instead he suggests to them another way to think about power and prestige. In the reign of God, which Jesus has come to establish, power is service; prestige and glory come through sacrifice and suffering. Jesus’ kingdom is not about who wears the crown, but who bears the cross.

This new way of thinking and acting seems to go against some of our natural inclinations. Jesus challenges us, by faith and the grace of God, to see power and prestige as service and sacrifice.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Name and describe someone you know (or know about) who spends their time and energy on others more than on themselves.... Do you think that person is looking for power, prestige, popularity? Would you describe him or her as *proud*, or would you describe them as *humble*?
- Give an example from your own life when you wanted more to serve than to be served, when you gave of yourself to care for another.

To Be Like Jesus

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NIV)

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



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

- 22-1-9-25-7 _____
- 18-12-7-25-23-19 _____
- 7-15-4-12-18 _____
- 3-19-22-18 _____
- 17-21-22-22-19-7 _____
- 7-21-3-19-7 _____
- 11-25-7-3-6 _____
- 3-19-1-6-19-7 _____
- 17-19-7-9-1-23-18 _____
- 7-1-23-17-25-13 _____

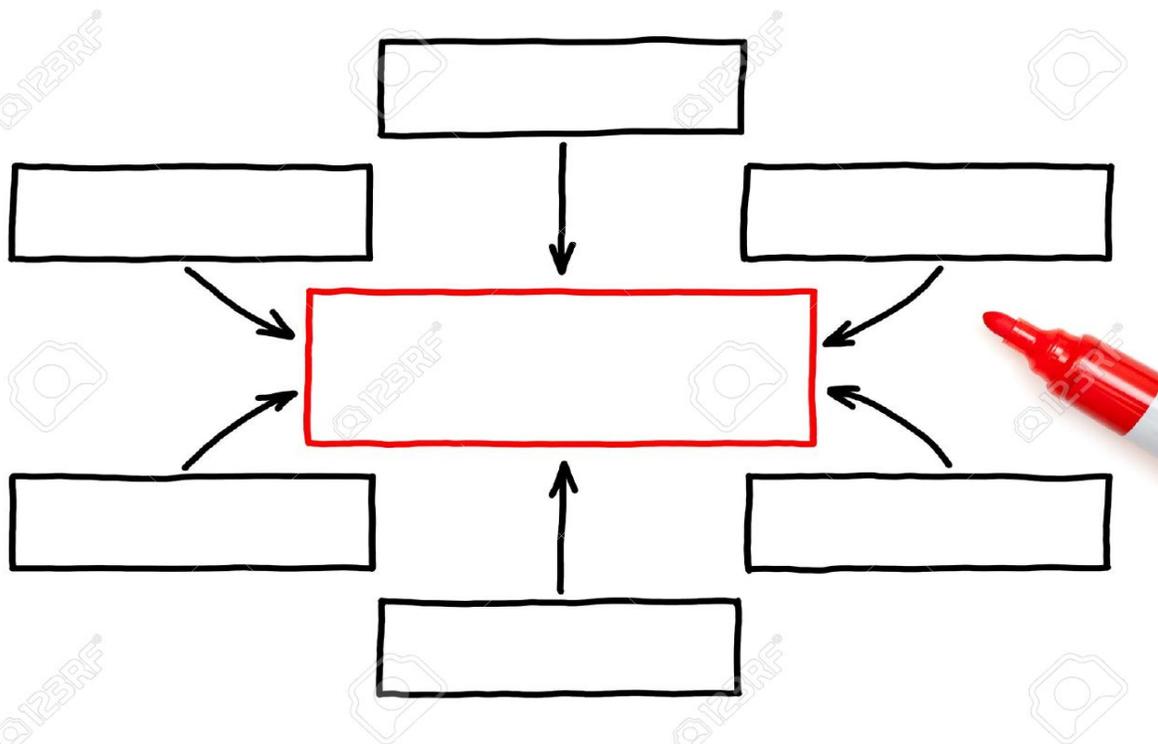
LEADER RANSOM	RIGHT SERVANT	LEFT SUFFER	FAVOR THRONE	WORLD RULER
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For Families this week: PONDER AND DISCUSS

- What do you think are the qualities most needed in a leader?
- Who do you see as a model of servant leadership, after Jesus' own heart?
- How would you go about becoming a servant leader?



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FALL CAMPAIGN



Let's stand with the oppressed in their quest for recognition

In Honduras and Cambodia, organizations supported by Development and Peace are raising the voices of communities oppressed by a model of economic development that violates their rights. The Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC) trains environmental leaders to defend natural resources, the environment and human rights. In Cambodia, Development and Partnership in Action (DPA)'s mission is, in part, to enable communities affected by extractive industries to gain advocacy skills so they can organize and defend their rights.

We can support these partners by recognizing the role we can play in an unjust global system and taking action to change it. This year, the action highlighted by the **People and Planet First** campaign is about holding Canadian companies accountable for their operations abroad - to ensure that Canada is not complicit in the violation of the rights of our brothers and sisters. Get involved at <https://devp.org/en>

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



On October 10th 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.

Archbishop Peter Hundt will officially open the synod in the Archdiocese of St. John's this Sunday, October 17 with a special 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. John the Baptist which will be livestreamed on www.thebasilica.net.

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!

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.

Subscribe to our weekly Catechetical resource. E-mail: Familycatechesis@rcsj.org

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.

10 THEMES OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

1

THE JOURNEYING COMPANIONS

IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY, WE ARE SIDE-BY-SIDE ON THE SAME ROAD

2

LISTENING

LISTENING IS THE FIRST STEP, BUT IT REQUIRES HAVING AN OPEN MIND AND HEART, WITHOUT PREJUDICES

3

SPEAKING OUT

ALL ARE INVITED TO SPEAK WITH COURAGE, INTEGRATING FREEDOM, TRUTH AND CHARITY

4

CELEBRATING

“JOURNEYING TOGETHER” IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF IT IS BASED ON COMMUNAL LISTENING TO THE WORD AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE

5

CO-RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MISSION

SYNODALITY IS AT THE SERVICE OF THE CHURCH’S MISSION, IN WHICH ALL HER MEMBERS ARE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE

6

DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND IN SOCIETY

DIALOGUE IS A PATH OF PERSEVERANCE THAT INCLUDES SUFFERING AND SILENCE, BUT WHICH IS CAPABLE OF GATHERING THE EXPERIENCE OF PERSONS AND PEOPLES

7

WITH THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRISTIANS OF DIFFERENT CONFESSIONS, UNITED BY ONE BAPTISM, HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE SYNODAL JOURNEY

8

AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION

A SYNODAL CHURCH IS A PARTICIPATORY AND CO-RESPONSIBLE CHURCH.

9

DISCERNING AND DECIDING

IN A SYNODAL STYLE, DECISIONS ARE MADE THROUGH DISCERNMENT, BASED ON A CONSENSUS THAT FLOWS FROM COMMON OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

10

FORMING OURSELVES IN SYNODALITY

THE SPIRITUALITY OF JOURNEYING TOGETHER IS CALLED TO BECOME AN EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLE FOR THE FORMATION OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND OF THE CHRISTIAN, OF THE FAMILY AND OF COMMUNITIES.