

LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 19, 2021



THE GOSPEL TODAY

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In the Gospel today, we can imagine Jesus chuckling at the apostles. They think that he has not heard the argument that they've been having among themselves on the road, but clearly he has heard them squabbling about who is the greatest among them. How would you deal with this situation? Jesus doesn't lose his patience. He doesn't upbraid the apostles or tell them off, or make them feel silly or small. He could have done all of these things. Instead, Jesus deals with the situation with kindness and creativity, and offers a lesson that applies right down to our own day and our own situation. To be great means offering oneself in loving service to all, especially the "little ones." Jesus uses a child as an example of the "little ones"-- the vulnerable ones, those who suffer, the poor, the ones who cannot repay our kindness, the voiceless ones, the people on the margins of our families, of Church, of society, of our vision. We often speak of tolerance and acceptance today' in this Gospel, Jesus goes a step further. He tells us to *welcome* the vulnerable ones, those who suffer, the poor, the ones who cannot repay our kindness, the voiceless ones, the people on the margins of our family, of Church, of society, of our vision.

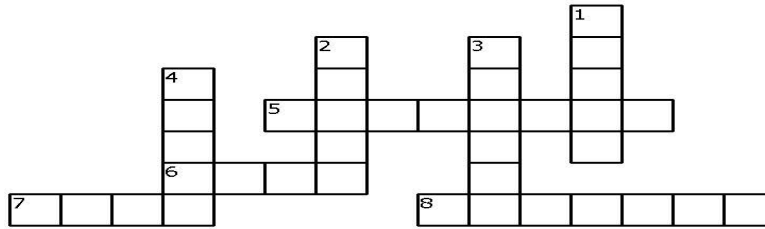
TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How can you move from tolerance to welcome in your own family?
- If we really acted in the manner put forward by Jesus, how might our society change?
- What small change can you make today to re-adjust your outlook on what it means to be great?

Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



ACROSS

5. A person or thing of the highest quality or character
6. The one coming after all others
7. A public way for the travel of vehicles, people, and animals
8. Someone who is employed to perform services for others

DOWN

1. A building where people live, especially a family
2. The one coming before all others
3. Small in size
4. A very young person

LITTLE ROAD	LAST FIRST	SERVANT CHILD	GREATEST HOUSE
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Let's put People and Planet First with Development and Peace —

Caritas Canada's new campaign!

In Canada, most people can speak out freely when injustice is committed. In many countries of the Global South, however, communities are threatened when they seek to protect their rights, especially their right to a healthy environment. This climate of insecurity is often fuelled by the presence and influence of corporations, some of which are Canadian.

Undaunted, many vulnerable communities fight courageously to defend their rights, their lands and the environment against corporate harm.

This year, Development and Peace's People and Planet First campaign invites you to stand in solidarity with them and celebrate their work!

To learn more about the campaign, join us for an introductory workshop at 9:30 on Saturday, September 25 at Corpus Christs Parish Centre, Waterford Bridge Road.

The campaign poster is available for download on Development and Peace's website for promotion! For more information, contact: Patricia Walsh Warren, Animator for Newfoundland and Labrador at:

pwalsh@devp.org or visit <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/>.

THE CHURCH TEACHES LAUDATO SI' AND CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

Each year, the Church celebrates the "Season of Creation" from September 1 to October 4. This year, a new initiative, the Laudato Si' Action Platform, has been launched.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a program and associated website that equips Catholic institutions, communities, and families to implement Laudato Si'. It is sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and is developed with a ground-up approach in partnership with diverse Catholic people and institutions. It offers guidance and a space for all to share ideas, questions, challenges, and inspiration, since "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." (LS 141)

For more information, go to:

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>

THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



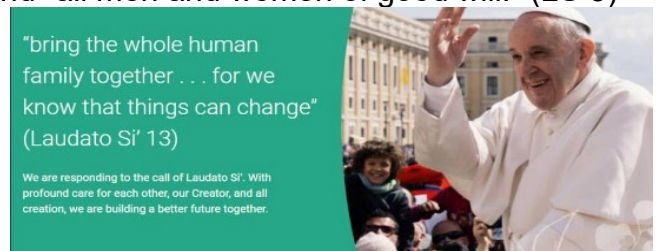
The Laudato Si' Goals are the destination of our Laudato Si' journeys. They offer guidance on the practice of integral ecology in the holistic spirit of Laudato Si'. Discerning a response to the ecological crisis is a profound act of care. The Laudato Si' Goals are intended to guide our actions. They redefine and rebuild our relationship with each other and our common home. They call for a spiritual and cultural revolution to realize integral ecology.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform will be launched in stages throughout 2021 and 2022. On **October 4th 2021**, Feast of St Francis of Assisi, there will be a 'formal launch' of the program with organizations who are ready to make a commitment to the journey – that is, to the integral ecology of the seven Laudato Si' Goals over the next seven years.

The platform will offer:

- Laudato Si' Plans, which your institution, community, or family can use to discern and implement your response to Laudato Si'.
- A process-oriented approach that responds to the charism of your institution, community, or family
- Guidance on actions that help build a better future through the Laudato Si' Goals
- Recognition of your progress

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organizations, and "all men and women of good will." (LS 3)



Action is urgently needed. Our Creator called the human family to be the steward of creation, but we have neglected that call. Our hotter, dirtier, deader planet is driving up the risk of suffering. The most vulnerable suffer above all.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.



RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.



ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.



ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude. Actions could include promoting creation-centred liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, and praying in nature.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION

Community Engagement and Participatory Action encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, engagement with decision-makers, and encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and ecosystems.

