

LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME September 26, 2021



THE GOSPEL TODAY

Mark 9:38-48

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

This Gospel could have been written today. It describes a reality that we see played out every day in many ways. It seems to happen in many groups, families, teams, clubs, institutions, or communities. It happens in society at large-- there are in-groups and out-groups, people are seen as either insiders or outsiders.

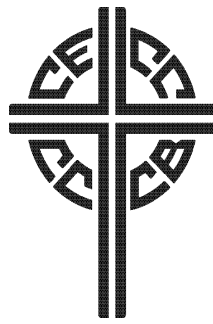
This pitting of insiders against outsiders can be deadly. It breeds suspicion, fear and division. It is harmful and destructive.

Jesus doesn't buy into the division; instead, he gives the disciples a lesson in tolerance. Perhaps He also was telling them to be careful not to limit God's spirit. The Spirit and mission of God were not to be the exclusive property of the Twelve, but were to be shared with many. "Whoever is not against us is for us."

In essence, Jesus is making a statement about the importance of thinking inclusively and acting inclusively in ministry, in relationships and in community. Be aware of the presence of God all around you! Be open to those who can teach you and challenge you to look at things differently. Look for God in those you might consider to be "outside your circle."

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- In your own family, community, place of work, or school, who challenges you to be more inclusive?
- If we really acted in the manner put forward by Jesus, how might our society change?



Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada: Support for the Bishops of Canada to pursue the Church's pastoral mission

Though it is difficult to comprehend the full extent of the pandemic on Canadian society, Bishops easily recognize, nevertheless, the common experiences that have touched all regions: communities in lockdown; overwhelmed healthcare providers and institutions; struggling businesses; and the mental, emotional and physical toll on families, friends and neighbours.

This past spring, the Church in Canada entered into a period of deep sorrow when results from investigations into gravesites at former Indian Residential Schools were shared. As Bishops, we saw ever more clearly the pain and suffering of the past, and renewed our pledge to continue walking side by side with Indigenous Peoples in the present, seeking greater healing and reconciliation for the future. As we remain steadfast in responding to the impact of the pandemic upon our communities of faith and the healing and reconciliation for Indigenous Peoples across the land, your prayers, gestures of kindness and generosity are invaluable, heartfelt and true sources of consolation, comfort and renewed encouragement in the pursuit of the Church's pastoral mission.

We will have more to say on this important work in the days and weeks ahead, particularly as the Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops meets for its annual meeting next week. In the meantime, to ensure that the Church's operational, spiritual, and programming needs are met, we will be proceeding with the annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada on 25 and 26 September 2021.

This annual charitable initiative assists the Bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and caring for the Church in Canada. We appreciate any commitments that you are able to make.

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For the members of the Church in Canada who are called to serve the most vulnerable in our communities – the elderly, the sick, the poor and the marginalized, including Indigenous Peoples – may they be guided by the gifts of wisdom, knowledge and love received from the Holy Spirit to help them in fulfilling their mission to do God's work.

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

CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FALL ACTION CAMPAIGN



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 a.m. 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/>.



**Development
and Peace**

CARITAS CANADA



THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



Does your parish have a food bank or clothes closet run by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul take as their guide St. Vincent de Paul, (24 April 1581 – 27 September 1660), was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He was renowned for his compassion, humility, and generosity. Vincent was canonized in 1737.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

ST JEROME, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

He is best known for his translation of most of the Bible into Latin (the translation that became known as the Vulgate) and his commentaries on the whole Bible.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

**ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Therese has been a highly influential model of sanctity for Catholics and for others because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2
THE GUARDIAN ANGELS**

