



VenTuRe

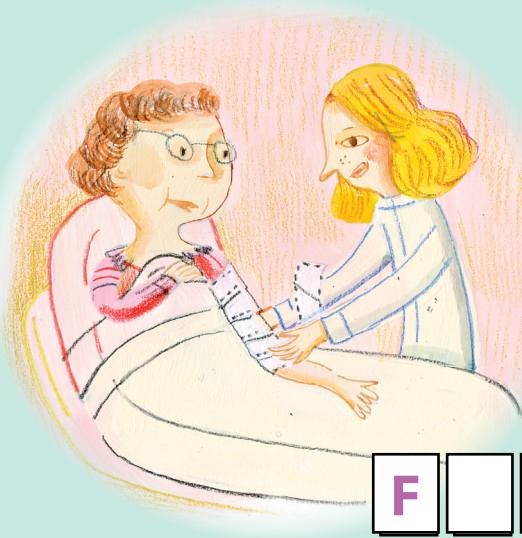
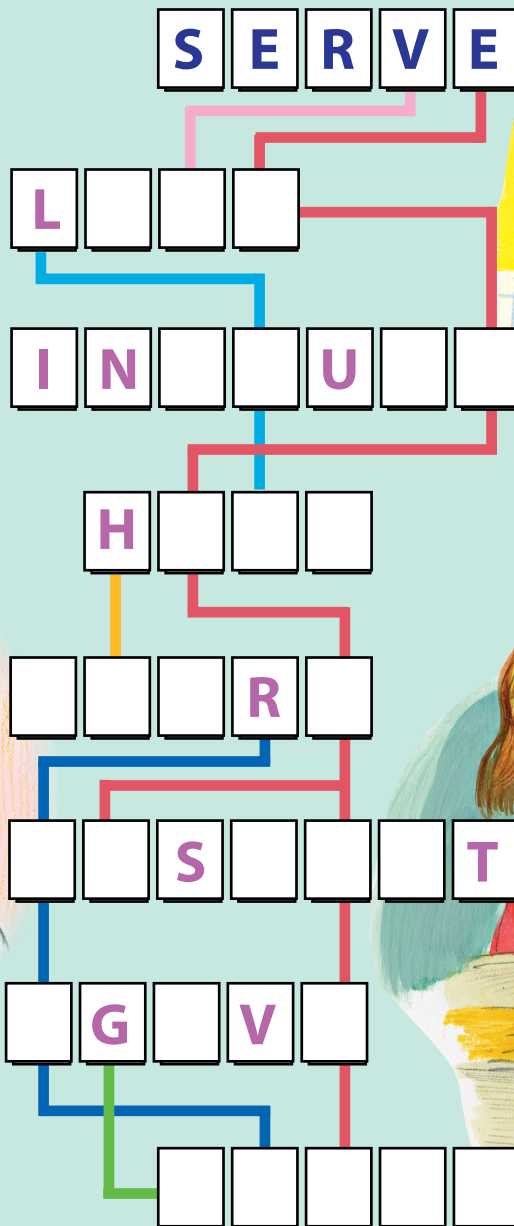
October 17, 2021

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

To Be Great Is to Serve All

Complete the words that show what serving others makes us look like in God's eyes. Start at the top. The lines between words show you to bring that letter or letters down to the next word. The drawings are clues to the words.

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.



NEVER TOO YOUNG to Serve

“Young but powerful,” read the Harriet Bishop Service Club T-shirts. A service day for the whole city didn’t seem impossible to Shrey Pothini, who started the service club at his school. Parents and children streamed into the city community center all day to bag rice for a food pantry, pack tooth-brushing kits for shelters, and make fleece blankets.

Shrey was only three when his mom took him to visit the shelter where she volunteered. “I saw that the kids didn’t have things,” Shrey remembers.

“‘Where are the toys?’ I asked my mom on the way home. ‘Why don’t they have anything nice?’

“‘They don’t have parents,’ she explained.

“When we got home, I got out a bunch of my toys to give to them. My mom said, ‘The teens are a little old for your toys. Let’s look on the website and see what they need.’”

“The list had twenty things on it,” says Shrey. “I ended up choosing towels because that was one thing the shelter really needed. I asked people to give me towels instead of

presents for my fourth birthday. I have done that every year since.”

Towel drives instead of presents didn’t catch on with many other children. Shrey asked his mom for ideas. “How can I get kids in my school involved in work that I do?”

“You can start a club,” she suggested. “You can talk to your principal.”

So Shrey did. The principal said yes, but added, “You’ll have to plan it on your own.”

“That January, I started the club,” says Shrey. He was a third-grader when he sent out invitations.

Many children joined the club. “There were fifty kids to start,” says Jade Haugen, a sixth-grader and a friend



One of Shrey’s youngest friends came to help.

of Shrey’s. “Ten more joined during the year.”

“The next year, we had 86. This year, 104 signed up,” says Shrey.

Why do so many children join? “It’s friends,” says Jade. “We are always talking about what we did last night at service club. Friends tell friends, and they want to do service too.”

“We are the only club with no age limit,” says Shrey. “Kids in kindergarten are not too young to make a difference.”

“The younger kids finally have something they can do,” says Jade. “We tweak projects to make them friendly for little kids. They can do more than you think, especially if you help them. We have fourteen student leaders who have been in service club before. Helping the little kids is our job.”

Shrey and Jade have both gone to We Day—a rally day to inspire students to do service projects.



Jade stacks bags of rice.



Boys pack dental kits for shelters.

“It’s such a learning experience, so fun. You figure out stuff at We Day,” says Jade. “We came away with ideas for service projects.”

“We can raise money to buy animals, fifty dollars for a goat, for families in South Africa,” explains Shrey. “Women sell the milk, send their kids to school, and buy things.”

Shrey applied to State Farm for a \$25,000 grant. He proposed putting a service club in every school in the district. “All the kids can use their voices, speak out, and have the opportunity to do service,” says Shrey.

With the grant money, all the schools have formed service clubs with teacher leaders and a budget. “We had to think about how to spend the grant—some for teachers to advise the clubs and some for materials to do the projects,” Shrey explains. “Clubs have to buy things like bulk rice, plastic bags, hairnets, scoops, markers, crayons.”

Jade has learned that businesses can help the clubs. “They don’t like to say no to kids. When we decided to make blankets, we went to the fabric store and asked for scraps. We told them our cause and they said, ‘Sure. We have stuff in our backroom too small to sell. You can have what you need.’”

Last spring, Shrey planned a service day for his whole community. “We wrote to the only other city in the U.S. that has done this. They emailed back and told my mom that I was too young to do this. I completely ignored that. I’ve have learned with the service clubs and towel drives that it wasn’t impossible.”

“Service is not just one day and it’s done,” says Shrey. “We want to give the kids that come ideas that they can keep doing. We want them to continue doing it all year. We want service to keep going for younger people.”



Volunteers of all ages packed bags of rice at the service day.



People make fleece blankets and toys for animal rescue shelters.

Shrey is now in high school. The club he started in elementary school is now known as Service Day Saturday.



- 1** How did Shrey get started doing service?
- 2** Why does a service club work better than birthday parties for involving others?
- 3** Why do the service clubs have no age limits and try to involve all the children in the school?
- 4** Why are younger children so eager to serve?

Bonus: Shrey says that big service projects aren’t impossible. From what Gospel do we learn that nothing is impossible for God?



SUNDAY GOSPEL

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:35-45

To Be Great Means to Serve Everyone

Narrator: James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus.

James and John: Teacher, there is something we want you to do for us.

Jesus: What is it?

James and John: When you sit on your throne in your glorious kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left.

Jesus: You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?

James and John: We can.

Jesus: You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized

in the way I must be baptized. But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. Only God can give those places.

Narrator: When the other disciples heard what James and John had asked Jesus, they became angry. So Jesus called them all together.

Jesus: You know that the rulers of government have great power over people and lord it over them. This is not the way you should act. Those who want to be great must **serve** the rest. Those who want to be first should help the others. The Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve and to give his life to save many.



THINK

- 1 Why do you think James and John want the most important places in the kingdom? What do they think is important?
- 2 How does Jesus want his followers to become great?
- 3 What does it mean to drink the same cup as Jesus?
- 4 Look at the last paragraph in the Gospel. How are the children in this week's story like the kind of leader that Jesus describes?



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

In this Sunday's Gospel, James and John want to be first in God's kingdom. James and John are very much like many of us. We may strive to get the best grade, finish fastest, or be the first to know something.

It's not bad to want to be first or to work hard to achieve goals. But Jesus is showing his disciples and us an even better way. Jesus shows us by his words and actions that service

to others is his life's mission (CCC, 608).

Jesus shares with James and John how they can be great. Those who are first in the Christian community are those who serve others. In Jesus' view, everyone is important. Everyone deserves respect and love. If we want to be great, we must help one another.

Jesus Wants Us to Be First to Serve



- 1 Think of a time you served someone else this week. List examples as a group, and choose a way you can serve someone this next week.
- 2 Name a person who is great according to Jesus' definition. This can be a famous person or someone you know personally.



Do you have a favorite superhero? Turn to page 29 in your *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook. Read the Follow Jesus section to learn how Catholic heroes serve the Church and God. In what ways do they act as Jesus does?

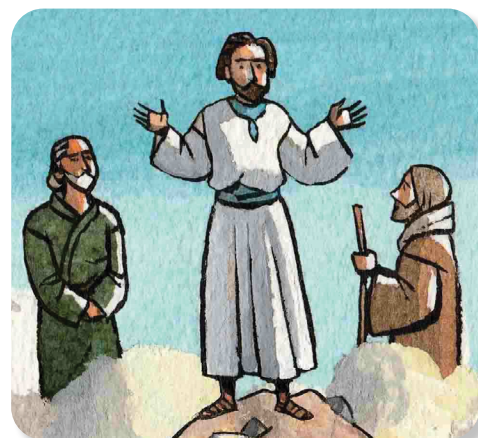
What Kind of Disciples Can James and John Become?

We can.” This is how James and John answer Jesus’ question, “Can you drink the cup of suffering I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized?”

These two brothers, James and John, are young and brave. They have become followers of Jesus. They think Jesus will turn out to be the great leader their people have awaited for centuries. They imagine Jesus sitting on a throne, ruling their country.

And who do they imagine sitting on the chairs on the right side and the left side of the throne? Themselves.

Jesus’ question has a warning in it for his two brave friends. James and John want to be great in Jesus’ kingdom. What if the way to enter this kingdom means drinking a cup? What if the liquid in this cup isn’t sweet, like soda or cocoa, but bitter and dangerous?



Catholic FAITH WORD

SERVE Using our talents and energy to help others. When we serve others, we help them out of love for them.

BIBLE SEARCH

What if the second thing people have to do to enter the kingdom is to be baptized? What if this baptism is not just taking a bath in

water? What if entering the kingdom means risking one’s life?

To find out how well James and John follow Jesus, look up the scenes in the

New Testament. The first two scenes come toward the end of Mark’s Gospel. The other three come from a book called the Acts of the Apostles, which tells what Jesus’ followers did after he returned to God.

Work in small groups. Read each scene. Decide whether the James, John, and the other disciples can follow Jesus in each situation. Check the correct answer.

Jesus’ Agony in the Garden Mark 14:32-42

- ☐ James and John can.
☐ James and John can’t.

What do they do?

Jesus Is Arrested Mark 14:46, 50

- ☐ James and John can.
☐ James and John can’t.

What do they do?

Preaching Acts 8:14-17

- ☐ They can.
☐ They can’t.

What do they do?

Persecution Acts 12:1-2

- ☐ James and John can.
☐ James and John can’t.

What do they do?

Jesus’ Ascension Acts 1:10-14

- ☐ They can.
☐ They can’t.

What do they do?

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.

In Sunday's Gospel, James and John make Jesus' other friends angry when they ask to be first in his kingdom. What does Jesus do? He calls his friends together and explains that those who want to be greatest must serve the rest.

The following situations ask you to make choices and consider which actions serve others best.

Form small groups and read aloud each dilemma and the options for action. Every person in the group should choose one of the actions and then share why they made that choice.

After everyone shares, return to your large group.

Your teacher will write the numbers 1–4 large on the board. Stand in front of the number you check. Your teacher will tally your responses. When everyone is seated again, answer the class discussion questions at the bottom of page 7.

1 Player Problem

You have wanted a Nintendo Switch forever, and now you are looking right at it. Somebody left one on the bleachers after your brother's basketball game. You notice it as you are leaving. No one seems to be looking for it or coming back right now. What do you do?



- 1 You pick it up. There is no name on it. You turn it on, and it's ready to play. You decide to take it. If anyone asks, you'll lie and say your parents finally got it for you.
- 2 You think about taking it, but you don't. You wish even more that you had one of your own.
- 3 You meet up with your friends and ask them what they would do.
- 4 You turn it in to the principal's office the next day.



2 Candy Bar Question

You and a friend are shopping at the corner store. The clerk has to answer the phone. While he is busy, your friend takes a candy bar and stuffs it in his pocket. What do you do?

- 1 You do nothing.
- 2 You tell your friend to put the candy bar back.
- 3 You say nothing but wonder if you should hang out with this friend anymore.
- 4 You leave money behind to pay for the candy bar your friend has taken.

Serve Others?

3 Dinner Dilemma

Your parents are part of a parish group that prepares meals at a Loaves and Fishes program. It helps out families that can't afford healthy meals.

You go along to help serve. You recognize three kids from school in the food line. These kids pick on little kids at the bus stop, and shove kids in the halls at school. They are mean bullies. What do you do?



- 1 You don't want them to recognize you. You ask if you can work in the kitchen.
- 2 You decide to say, "Well, look who's here," and serve them with a sarcastic smile.
- 3 You tell the director they are mean kids who should be thrown out.
- 4 You serve them like you serve everyone else.

4 Speak Up Situation

You go into the restroom at school, and two of your best friends are there. They are laughing about a classmate who they think is a loser. Just then, that classmate comes out of one of the stalls and runs into the hallway. What do you do?



- 1 You laugh with your friends.
- 2 You follow the student out to talk to him/her.
- 3 You tell your friends what they did was mean and leave.
- 4 You tell your friends to apologize to the student they have hurt.

Class Discussion Questions

- 1 In each situation, which option do you think best shows service to others? Why?
- 2 Which option do you think is the poorest? Why?
- 3 What better solutions do you have?



The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.

—Blessed Carlo Acutis

Fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders answered this week's question:

When has someone been a good friend to you?

I was **welcomed** into a group by my friends Rebeca, Izabella, Teuta, and Hanaa. They were really nice to me when my nana died. **Maria J.**



My best friend, Greta, is very nice, and I know I can trust her. Sometimes my feelings get hurt, and she will **help me feel better**. She is always there for me when I need her. If we get into a fight, which doesn't last very long, she is always the first one to say, "Do you want to play with me?" We have gotten through the rough times together. **Alexa**

We were in gym playing handball. Kol **passed the ball to me**, and I scored! I felt so thankful. I ran down the court and high-fived him. I felt so good for both of us, and then we won the game! **Cole**



During lunch, I was excited about the fourth-quarter lunch table switch. I wanted to go to Table 24 in the lunchroom. After prayer, Mrs. Miller said, "You can start switching lunch tables!" I tried to maneuver through the fifth- and sixth-graders. I finally made my way to Table 24, but there were already eight people sitting there. So, as I tried to find another table, Francisco W. said,

"You can have my seat, Onimisi." Onimisi

Ryan has been a good friend to me this year. He was at my same preschool, and we were best friends. This year, he came to my school. He didn't remember me, but **he was still very nice**. I told him who I was, and our friendship got even stronger. We play games and always talk together at school. **Matthew**



With My Family and Friends

Scan here for
parent resources
or go to gospelweeklies.com/family



Pray

Open my eyes, Lord, to see the needs of others and to grow in my desire to serve them. Amen.



Think

In what ways can you serve Jesus by serving others?



Act

Help a neighbor with yardwork—rake leaves, clean up the yard—and take time to notice that the same God who created the beauty in nature wants us to care for the world and one another.

When has someone been a good friend to you?

Follow Jesus



Many people have said yes to God in a big way. Katharine Drexel, a member of a wealthy Philadelphia family, gave \$20 million of her own money to help Native Americans and African Americans. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest in a World War II concentration camp, gave his own life for that of a fellow prisoner sentenced to death. Jean Donovan, a young woman from Connecticut, served El Salvador's poor despite a war that was tearing their tiny country apart. In 1980, soldiers shot her to death.

Still today, there are Catholic heroes all around you. Like Katharine Drexel, Catholics continue to share with those in need. Like Maximilian Kolbe, Catholic priests, brothers, and sisters continue to risk their lives for others, often while serving in dangerous places all over the world. And like Jean Donovan, Catholic lay people continue to do good wherever God calls them.

The secret behind all great Catholic heroes is that they take Jesus as their model. Jesus spent his whole life serving God and doing good. He did this even when it led to his own arrest, torture, and Death. By taking up his Cross, Jesus said yes to God's plan for saving the

world. Through his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus conquered sin and gave people new life.

That new life begins for each of us with Baptism. The life of God that we receive in Baptism helps us follow Christ's example in our own lives.

**Our new life
with Jesus
begins with
our Baptism.**

The graces we receive from the sacraments help us live lives pleasing to God. But divine grace does not take away our free will. We always keep our freedom to choose for or against God. In fact, we often find it easier to make wrong

choices than right ones.

But Jesus taught us the difference between right and wrong. He said that the Ten Commandments will always be important. To these, Jesus added the Sermon on the Mount and the Great Commandment.

Deep in their hearts, all human beings want the happiness that comes from knowing and loving God completely. After all, every human being has been made to enjoy eternal life in God's presence. But God does not force himself on anyone. He gives his eternal life and presence only to those who say yes to him, and a big part of saying yes to God is keeping his commandments.



October 24, 2021

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

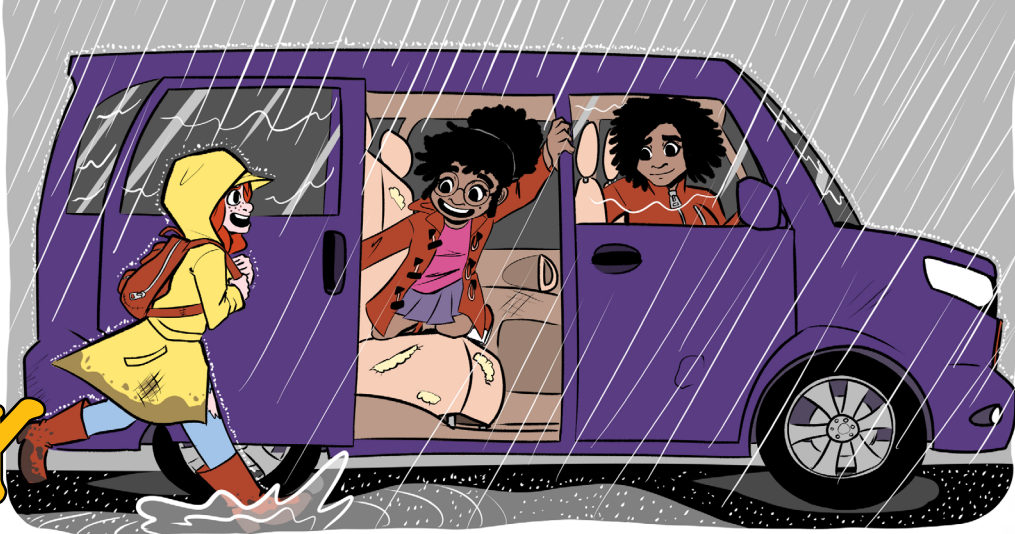
VenTuRe

What Do You See?



Find as many differences as you can in the two photographs.

NOT LIKE Amber



My parents are way too strict about studying, about chores, about coming home on time—about everything. It's not the same for my new friend at school, Amber. She doesn't have to call home when she's going to be late.

"It must be great to be trusted like that," I told her.

She looked at me, then shrugged. "I guess so."

I hesitated to invite Amber to my house. I share a bedroom with my two younger sisters. They have their good moments, but sometimes they are truly terrible. I mean, they're ten and eight. What can you expect?

"All I want for Christmas is a room of my own," I told my mom.

"You're joking, right?"

"The Jacksons remodeled their garage into another bedroom. Why can't we do that?"

"Lily, you don't realize how fortunate you are." Right about there, I tuned out. I mean, once you've heard something approximately 3,742 times, you've pretty much heard it.

One particularly nasty, windy, and rainy morning, Mom drove me to school.

I saw someone in a yellow rain jacket coming out of the YWCA. I caught a glimpse of the face from under the hood.

"Mom, that's Amber!" She was trudging toward school, head bent against the fierce wet wind. Mom pulled up to the curb and stopped. I rolled down my window.

"Amber, get in!" The wind practically tore the words from my mouth.

"Wow! Thanks!" Amber climbed in.

"Do you always go to the Y before school?" I asked.

"You must be in training for something big."

"My mom works on the cleaning crew there," Amber explained. "I go to work with her sometimes." She changed the subject. "Are you ready for the big math test?"

"I am never ready enough," I said, laughing.

"You know, you can always call us for a ride," my mother said. "How about a ride home from school today?"

"No, it's OK. I help out at the Modern Café after school. My mom works in the kitchen there. Thanks, though."

When Amber and I were putting our wet coats in our lockers, I said, "Isn't our car just horrible? I'm so embarrassed to have anyone even see it!"

"My mom's car is older than yours," Amber said.

"Oh." My voice was almost as small as I felt.

When I got into our beat-up minivan after school that afternoon, I looked over and saw Amber getting into their car.

The woman at the wheel was obviously her mom. Her face was narrow and freckled like Amber's, and her hair was a shorter version of Amber's red mop. When Amber opened the door, I saw that the car was stuffed with sleeping bags, pillows, grocery bags, and boxes.

Wow, no wonder she didn't think our car was so bad, I thought. At least we're not carting a bunch of junk around.



“I dropped off your sisters at the church for the Christmas pageant rehearsal,” Mom said. “We’ve got time to go to the sale at the fabric store. I want to make the girls new bathrobes for Christmas.”

“Whatever.”

“Then maybe we can go for hot chocolate,” Mom said.

I wasn’t too surprised when we pulled up in front of the Modern Café an hour later. Amber was filling saltshakers. I rolled my eyes and pointed toward my mother. Amber grinned.

“Hot chocolates, please,” Mom said, smiling. “Did you say your mom works here, Amber?”

“Would you like to meet her?” Amber asked, smiling. “I’m sure she can come out for a minute.”

“Mom!” I said under my breath, as Amber walked away. Amber’s mom brought our hot chocolates out on a tray.

“I’m Beth. Pleased to meet you,” she said. “And Lily, of course. I’ve heard a lot about you.”

Next thing I knew, Mom invited Amber and her mom over for chili on Sunday, when the Modern Café is closed. Chili is my dad’s specialty. Amber’s mom hesitated a minute, then accepted.

Amber, to my amazement, was not at all appalled at my bedroom. It’s crammed with



my sisters’ bunk beds, my own bed, two dressers, and a desk with a bookshelf above it.

“You can see I’ve got problems—no privacy and lots of noise from my sisters. You’re lucky,” I said to Amber. She looked at me and raised her eyebrows. “To have a room of your own, I mean.”

“What makes you say that?” I thought there was a note of caution in her voice.

“Well, you don’t have any sisters to share with, right?”

“Lily, really. You don’t know how lucky you are. Take my word for it.”

Great, I thought. As if I don’t hear enough verses of that tune from my own parents, now I get to hear it from my friends too.

We walked into the kitchen just in time to hear Mom ask, “So, Beth, where do the two of you live?”

There was a long silence. Then Amber’s mom turned to look at her. Amber looked at her mom and nodded slowly.

“It’s OK.” Amber’s voice was soft. “I don’t want to lie to Lily and her mom.”

“We’re between places right now,” Beth said. “We were OK until they raised the rent on our apartment.”

“What do you mean?” I blurted out without thinking.

No one said anything.

“I think she means,” Mom’s words were directed toward me, but her eyes were on Amber, “that they’ve been living in their car. Is that right?”

I knew the truth as soon as I heard it. It explained so much—Amber’s little jobs, the old car packed full of stuff. And I bet she showers at the Y in the morning.

I never would have guessed it. Amber and her mom don’t seem any different from our family. They dress like us; their car is similar to ours. Amber’s just like me, except for one thing. I have a place to live.



- 1 How does Lily see Amber as the story begins?
- 2 What opens Lily’s eyes?
- 3 When has something opened your eyes?
- 4 How do you think Amber feels now that Lily knows that she and her mother are homeless?
- 5 How should Lily treat Amber?

Jesus Cures the Blind Man

Narrator: As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting by the road and begging. When he heard Jesus of Nazareth walking by, he began to shout.

Bartimaeus: Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!

People: Be quiet. Leave Jesus alone. Who are you that Jesus should pay attention to you?

Bartimaeus: (louder) Son of David, have mercy on me!

Narrator: Jesus stopped.

Jesus: Call him.

People: Cheer up! Get up. Jesus is calling you.

Narrator: Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

Jesus: What do you want me to do for you?

Bartimaeus: Master, I want to see.

Jesus: Go, your faith has saved you.

Narrator: At once Bartimaeus was able to see, and he followed Jesus.



- 1 Why do the people in the Gospel scold Bartimaeus when he calls out to Jesus? How do they see Bartimaeus?
- 2 What does Bartimaeus, even though he is blind, see in Jesus?
- 3 What does Jesus see in Bartimaeus?
- 4 What shows that Bartimaeus becomes a disciple of Jesus?

Catholic FAITH WORD

MIRACLE A sign or wonder, such as a healing, that can only be attributed to God's power.



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

When Jesus calls Bartimaeus to him, he sees unfocused eyes, ragged clothes, and probably dirty skin. Jesus looks beyond what his eyes see. Jesus looks into the blind man's heart. Bartimaeus can see with his heart, despite his blindness. Bartimaeus believes and hopes in Jesus. He calls out for help.

Bartimaeus is like all of us. He believes in Jesus without being

able to see him. He has heard about Jesus healing people, and he believes in the power of these healing **miracles**. Jesus does not force anyone to believe in him; faith is a free act, a choice that we must make for ourselves (CCC, 160). We see and believe.

Faith Is a Free Choice



- 1 Imagine you are blind, like Bartimaeus. How would you learn about other people if you couldn't see them?
- 2 Think of a time you saw something one way, but then saw it differently. What changed?

Imprimatur: +Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D., Bishop of Worcester, April 26, 2021. Theological Reviewer: Reverend Michael T. Martine, S.T.B., J.C.L.; Publisher: David Dziena; Editor: Nicholle Check; Designer: Jennifer Pofert. Printed in the USA.
VENTURE copyright © 2021 by Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc., sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption. Material in this issue may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form or format without special permission from the publisher. Page 1: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com; pages 2-3: Michael Tortora; page 4: Marcelino Truong/Bayard; page 5: Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, Bayard Presse - Filotéo - Illustration: Claire Perret; page 6: rodnikovsky/Shutterstock.com; page 7: © Bayard Presse - Filotéo - Illustration: Claire Perret.



When people begin to hear about the miracles Jesus performs, large crowds gather wherever he goes. Turn to page 6 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*, and read about why, even today, people want to be close to God and his Son.

Sacraments Continue Jesus' Words and Actions

Jesus often talks with people in the Gospel stories, and people talk to him. This is the case in this Sunday's Gospel.

As Jesus leaves the city of Jericho, a blind man named Bartimaeus shouts at him, demanding mercy. Some of Jesus' followers scold Bartimaeus. They seem to think Jesus is too important to waste his time on a blind beggar. But Jesus stops and has a conversation with Bartimaeus.

Complete the conversation between Bartimaeus and Jesus. Use page 4 to find what each says next.

Bartimaeus: "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus: "What do you want me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus:

What does Jesus say has made Bartimaeus well?

Jesus talks to people and calls them to believe in him. The name for people talking back and forth with one another is dialogue. Dialogue is an important part of many Gospel stories and also of the celebration of the sacraments.

The sacraments continue Jesus' actions—the way he heals, forgives, shares, and includes people. The sacraments also continue Jesus' dialogue. Jesus speaks to us in the dialogues of Baptism and the Eucharist. We answer, we tell Jesus what we need, and we believe.

In Baptism, the priest asks, "Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?" People who want to be baptized or, in the case of a baby, the parents answer, "I do."

The priest asks, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD . . . do you believe in the Holy Spirit?" Again they answer, "I do" (*The Order of Baptism of Children*).



Throughout the Eucharist, the priest and the people talk to one another in dialogue.

Finish the dialogue below by writing the words people use to respond to the priest at Mass.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

We answer:

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

We answer:

Priest: The mystery of faith.

We answer:

Priest: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

We answer:



A to Z Prayer Service

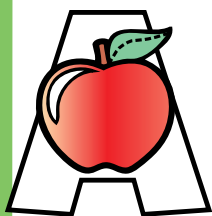
In the beginning, God made the world. In the end, God will gather all people together into one family. From beginning to end, God loves us.

In the letter squares below, draw pictures of people and things you want to thank God

for or pray for. Draw a person or thing for each letter of the alphabet.

Pray the following prayer together. Take turns saying in alphabetical order what you have drawn.

All: Loving God, you have loved us from the beginning. Thank you for the universe and all of us who live here. Thank you, God, for . . .



B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y



Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you—for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart.

—Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Lisieux)

All: Loving God, you are the beginning and the end, the A and the Z. We trust you and love you. Amen.

Follow and Listen: A Trust Challenge

The activities on these pages put us in the place of Bartimaeus, the blind man who heard about Jesus, asked him for sight, and became his disciple. We learn what listening and following mean.

Cut out the three cards. The green cards are about following. The blue cards are about listening. Begin with green card #1. Decide if everyone wants to do the activity, or if just one pair of children will perform it for the group.



Follow Me

1

Blindfold your partner and ask him or her to follow these directions. You will need a marker or chalk and a writing surface for the last direction.

- ✓ Raise your hands over your head.
- ✓ Take one step backward.
- ✓ Turn to your right.
- ✓ Take two steps backward.
- ✓ Make a 180-degree turn.
- ✓ Write your name.

Your partner removes the blindfold. Discuss.

- How did you feel following the directions?
- How hard was it to trust?
- How hard was it to write your name?
- Was anything scary?

Follow Me

2

Go into a hallway or gym where you have room to move. Have a folding chair available. Begin in the middle of the space. Blindfold your partner and turn him or her around several times. Give these directions:

- ✓ Walk forward five steps.
- ✓ Put your arms out to the side.
- ✓ Slide sideways three steps.
- ✓ Stick out your arms in front of you.
- ✓ Walk forward until you touch the wall.
- ✓ Turn around and walk three steps forward.
(Put the chair behind the person and against the wall.)
- ✓ Step backward until I tell you to stop.
- ✓ Sit down.

Your partner removes the blindfold. Discuss.

- How did you feel following the directions?
- How hard was it to trust?
- Was anything scary?

Follow Me

3

Ask your partner to sit at a desk or table. Blindfold him or her. Have a glass and pitcher available. Give these directions:

- ✓ Feel this glass.
- ✓ Give the glass to me.
- ✓ Feel this pitcher.
- ✓ Pick up the pitcher.
- ✓ You will pour into the glass. I will tell you where I have placed the glass.
(Put the glass down quietly in a place the person can't reach without standing or reaching. Give step-by-step instructions as to when to pour from the pitcher. Hold the glass so it doesn't fall over.)
- ✓ Now pour.

Your partner removes the blindfold. Discuss.

- How did you feel following the directions?
- How hard was it to trust?
- How well did you pour the water?

I'm Listening 1

Do this activity as a class. You will need a basketball or large rubber ball. Everyone should line up. One student will volunteer to be blindfolded, and then face away from the class.

Everyone else will pass the ball to each other until the blindfolded person says, "I'm listening." Whoever who has the ball will bounce it a few times. The blindfolded person will turn to the class, point at the child with the ball, and try to name him or her.

- **How did the blindfolded person know who had the ball?**
- **What listening clues did he or she have?**
- **Did anyone help the blindfolded person?**

[Click here for Online Assessments](#)

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for 
parent resources
or go to gospelweeklies.com/family



Pray

Lord, sometimes I don't even recognize that I need healing. Help me to see where I might be broken and to humbly ask for your healing. Amen.



Think

What do you want Jesus to heal for you? Do you believe that he can heal you?



Act

Listen during Mass and try to notice how many times we ask God to forgive or heal us.

I'm Listening 3

Everyone in the group chooses a partner. One will be the "Talker" and the other the "Un-Listener." The talkers will spend one minute telling about the best day of their life. The un-listeners will do everything they can not to listen. They can cover their ears, hum, turn away from the talker, talk with another un-listener—anything that keeps them from listening. When the minute is up, both partners will talk about these questions:

- **How did you feel during the minute?**
- **When have you felt someone was not listening to you?**
- **When have you been aware you aren't listening to others?**
- **How is this experience like how we listen to God?**

I'm Listening 2

Gather in a story circle. Darken the room. Quiet yourself, close your eyes, and follow these directions:

- ✓ Listen for all the sounds you can hear outside this room.
- ✓ Listen to sounds inside the room.
- ✓ Listen to the voice in your head reminding you of something or expressing a worry or fear.
- ✓ Listen to Jesus' words in the Gospel. "Go, your faith has saved you."
- ✓ Everyone opens their eyes. Discuss these questions:
 - **What outside sounds did you hear?**
 - **What inside sounds did you hear?**
 - **Think about the inner voice you heard. What did Jesus' words mean to you?**

1. People Want to Be Close to God

People are religious by nature. This means that wanting a good relationship with God comes as naturally as wanting good relationships with friends and family. People need to be close to God. In fact, it's only in God that they find complete happiness. Loving God is a person's top reason for living.

How can you know for sure that God exists? God shows himself to you through the beauty of Creation all around you, and God speaks to you through the voice of your conscience deep inside you. Your conscience tells you what is good, true, and beautiful—and what isn't. Once you know that, you know which things are worth your time and which ones aren't.

So then, to see into God's heart, go outside and gaze at the clouds by day and the stars by night. You won't see God's beauty if you don't look for it! To hear God speaking deep inside you, turn off the TV and put aside your phone or tablet for a while. You won't hear God's voice if you don't listen for it!

2. God Wants to Be Close to People

God has always spoken with people through both words and actions.

Our first parents enjoyed daily conversation with God until they sinned. After their fall from grace, they lost some of their closeness to God. God promised, however, that one day they and their offspring would

be saved from sin and the damage it does. Human beings again would enjoy perfect closeness to God.

As time passed, people grew tired of waiting for salvation, though, and most turned to evil ways. God decided the earth needed a fresh start, so he destroyed it with a great Flood. The only ones God spared were a good man named Noah, his family, and the animals Noah had gathered together. After the Flood, God made an agreement, or covenant, with Noah. God promised never again to destroy the world by water, and he set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise.

Later, God made another covenant, this time with a man named Abraham. God chose Abraham to be the father of the Hebrew people and asked him to move to another country. Abraham did everything God asked of him, and so he was blessed with good land and many offspring. After more time passed, God made a covenant with the Hebrews through Moses. God gave this great prophet the Ten Commandments. The Hebrews agreed to follow these commandments, and God agreed to be their God forever and to watch over them.

Finally, the time came when God made himself fully known through Jesus, his own Son. In Jesus, God made a new and everlasting covenant with people. Through Jesus anyone could gain the salvation promised long ago to all humankind.

VenTuRe

Why So Many Rules?

Unscramble the notes on the message board to find some of rules we all follow. Why do you think there are so many rules? Which do you think is the most important rule?

Answers are in the Teaching Guide.



CARRYING THE TROPHY HOME



“Strike him out!” Carson shouted from first base, pounding his mitt. Two runners were already on base, but just one more out and his team would win the championship.

The batter swung at the next pitch and connected. *Thwack!* Carson and his teammates watched the ball soar over their heads, over center field, and over the fence.

“Oh, no!” Carson muttered as cheers erupted from the other team and from their side of the stands. As the batter sprinted toward first base, Carson kicked at the dirt, his mitt hanging limply from his hand. With three runs scoring, the other team

had won the game and the championship.

The batter, gazing out toward where the ball had vanished, trotted past first base, missing it. As he turned back to tag the base, his right knee suddenly buckled, and he crumpled to the ground. Grimacing in pain, he crawled to the base, reached out, and touched it.

Coaches and umpires rushed to first base.

“Are you okay, Juan?” his coach asked, kneeling down beside him.

“No!” Juan cried, clutching his knee. “I can’t keep going. It hurts.”

“That’s the winning run if he can make it around the bases,” one umpire pointed

out. “But he needs medical attention.”

“Of course,” Juan’s coach agreed. “But it’s his first home run ever, and it’s his last game before he ages out of this league.”

“I want to finish my run,” Juan pleaded. “Please let me try.”

“No one on our team can help him or even touch him,” Juan’s coach warned as several of Juan’s teammates gathered around first base. “If we do, he can’t advance.”

Jessica, the shortstop, walked up and stood next to Carson to see what was happening.

They watched Juan, lying on the ground, clutching his knee.

In a hushed voice, Carson said to Jessica, “His first home run ever, in his last league game ever.”

“It’s not going to count if he can’t get around the bases,” Jessica whispered back. “If he doesn’t get around the bases, he doesn’t score. Then the game will be tied, and we get another chance to win and take home that trophy.”

“That trophy would look so good in Coach Alvarez’s hands,” Carson said. He was talking to himself as much as he was to Jessica.

Carson watched Juan fighting back tears, probably of both pain and frustration.





That's how I'd feel too, Carson thought, if I'd been robbed of my one and only home run. Carson remembered that sweet feeling he'd had crossing home plate the day he hit his first home run.

"Excuse me," Carson said, breaking into the circle of coaches and umpires. "Would it be OK if kids from our team carried him around and helped him touch each base?"

At first, no one said anything. The entire group just stared at Carson.

"That would work," said Jessica as she pounded her glove.

The umpires gathered into a huddle.

"Are you sure about this, Carson?" Coach Alvarez asked. "If he scores, we lose."

Carson nodded. "I'm sure," he said.

"It's legal," one umpire announced as the huddle broke up.

By now, Carson's teammates had clustered around first base. Carson scanned their faces. He

didn't know if they would be angry at him or not. But no one said anything against his idea. Then Jessica smiled at him.

"Will you help me carry him, Jessica?" Carson asked.

"Sure," Jessica replied, dropping her mitt.

Carson and Jessica knelt down and crossed their hands to form a seat for Juan. Then Bailey and Stefan stepped forward to boost Juan onto the seat.

Juan threw his arms around their shoulders as Carson and Jessica lifted him.

"I can't believe you're doing this for me," Juan said. "Thank you."

Carson shrugged. "No problem," he replied.

Carson and Jessica carried Juan to second base and lowered him so he could touch the base with his left foot. Then they repeated the sequence with third base.

As the trio rounded third and headed for home, Carson glanced at the bleachers and realized that all the fans, from both teams, were standing and applauding, giving them a standing ovation as they passed by.

As soon as Juan's shoe touched home plate, his father lifted him from Carson and Jessica's arms. Then the field swarmed with players and parents. Carson swung around as his

father grabbed him by the shoulder.

"You did a great thing, Carson," his father said.

"Thanks, Dad," Carson agreed. "But we lost, six to five. They get the trophy."

Carson stood beside his dad and watched the other team's coach hoisting the trophy into the air.

"Sports are about more than winning," his dad said.

Carson nodded. He was thinking that it was strange, but he didn't feel like a loser.



- 1** What makes Carson start to see the situation from Juan's perspective?
- 2** Why does the crowd give the three players a standing ovation?
- 3** Who is the winner? Who is the loser?
- 4** List adjectives that describe how Carson and his team acted toward Juan.



SUNDAY GOSPEL

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 12:28b-34

Jesus Teaches the Great Commandments

Narrator: *This Gospel begins when a scribe, teacher of the Law, challenges Jesus to answer a difficult question about the Law of Moses. The question is difficult because the Law of Moses contained 613 **commandments**.*

Scribe: Which is the first of all the commandments?

Jesus: This is the greatest: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone.

"Therefore, love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

"And this is the second: Love your neighbor as yourself.

"No other commandment is greater than these."

Scribe: What a great teacher you are! You are right, "The Lord alone is God; there is no other." Yes, "to love the Lord with all our hearts, and all our minds, and all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves"—this is worth more than making burnt offerings or sacrifices of animals.

Narrator: Jesus approved of these wise words.

Jesus: You are not far from the Kingdom of God.

Narrator: No one else dared to ask Jesus any more questions.



- 1 What commandments in the Law of Moses do you know?
- 2 What are ways you keep Jesus' Great Commandment?
- 3 How do Carson and Jessica keep Jesus' Great Commandment?
- 4 What are things you would not do to your neighbor because you don't want anyone to do them to you?



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

Jesus teaches us that love is the commandment that sums up all the others (CCC, 2055). Love is the action that connects each of us to God and to other people. In order to love our neighbors, we have to love ourselves. In order to show our love for God, we have to love our neighbors.

Our neighbors—all the people close to us whom we meet each day—aren't always easy to love. Sometimes each of us takes a turn being the neighbor who is hard for another to love.

The Great Commandment is simple and easy to remember. But remembering to help with chores, being kind to classmates, getting along with brothers and sisters—these things take our best effort. Jesus calls us to love God by loving ourselves and treating others in the same way we want to be treated.

Love Binds Us Together



- 1 Think of a problem in our world. How could love or loving actions help to solve it?
- 2 Now think of a problem in your school. How could love or loving actions help to solve it?



Jesus gives us the New Law: Love God and love your neighbor. Turn to pages 36–37 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to learn what the new law means to Jesus' followers. Note: This Sunday's Gospel comes from Mark. What other Gospel writer talks about the Great Commandment? Bonus: What famous Gospel story also ends with this law? (Search online for the answer!)

A Creed States Our Beliefs

Advertisements use slogans to tell us why we'll like the products. Political candidates use slogans to state their beliefs. Groups use slogans to tell others what they stand for. A motto states the main characteristics of groups such as clubs, teams, classes, and countries. Here are some examples of slogans and mottoes:

In God we trust.
Be all you can be.
Just do it!
Buckle up.
Respect life.

Like slogans and mottoes, creeds express main ideas in easy-to-remember words. A creed states the most basic beliefs of a religion. The Nicene Creed we pray at Mass on Sundays summarizes all the beliefs of the Catholic Church.

The Sign of the Cross could be described as a mini-creed. We remember every time we make the Sign of the Cross that we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



In Jerusalem, a boy celebrates his bar mitzvah. Now he can read from the Torah scroll and lead the congregation in prayer.

This Sunday, we hear a short creed in both the Gospel and in the First Reading from the Old Testament book Deuteronomy. This creed is a short and easy saying for remembering an important idea. Jews and Christians still pray this creed. Jesus shares this same short and very old Jewish creed in this Sunday's Gospel:

**“Hear, O Israel!
The Lord is our God,
the Lord alone!
Therefore, you shall love the
Lord, your God,
with your whole heart,
and with your whole being,
and with your whole
strength.”**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

In 621 B.C., workers found the scroll containing these words when they were cleaning and repairing the Temple in Jerusalem. King Josiah read the scroll, called Deuteronomy, and ordered the priests to read it to all the people. He led his people back to worshipping one God instead of the many gods of other nations. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls these words the Greatest Commandment.

The Sh'ma is a prayer that is as important to Jews as the Lord's Prayer is to Christians. Jesus quotes this prayer in Sunday's Gospel. This is the beginning of the Sh'ma written in Hebrew. Read from right to left.



Catholic FAITH WORD

COMMANDMENTS Laws from God. The Ten Commandments were the divine laws revealed to Moses and the People of Israel that describe our relationship and duties to God, others, and ourselves.



Celebrate *Día de los Muertos*

Death in the Mexican culture isn't the end of life. It is the start of a new cycle of life. This is a belief that is rooted in both Christian and Aztec tradition.

Mexicans celebrate the dead people in their families on October 31 and November 1 and 2. This celebration is called *Día de los Muertos*, which means "Day of the Dead."

People make altars called *ofrendas* (the Spanish word for "offerings") to welcome the spirits of their dead friends and relatives as honored guests in their homes. These are not altars for worship like those in church.

Families place photos of the dead people, candles, personal mementos, and marigolds (called *flores de cempasúchil*) on the altar as a way to remember their beloved dead. *Flores de cempasúchil* are the symbolic flowers of death of the Aztec people of ancient Mexico.

The spirits of the *angelitos*—children who have died—arrive on October 31. Families greet the arrival of adult spirits on November 1. On November 2, All Souls Day, people take the food from the *ofrendas* to the graves of family members they want to celebrate and remember. An all-night vigil reunites the living and the dead in spirit.



Preparation

- Decide upon a date and time for your *Día de los Muertos* prayer service. Invite another class to your celebration. Encourage them to bring a photo of a family member or friend who has died whom they want to remember in a special way.
- Make an *ofrenda*. Decorate it with paper flowers, candles, bread, fruits, and yellow marigolds. Place on the altar the photos you brought, as well as any mementos you have of that person.

Celebration

- Play "Yes, Lord, I Believe/ Si Señor, yo creo" (*Venture/Visions Music CD, CD-2, #14*).
- Have a student read the explanation of *Días de los Muertos*. Then have each classmate tell about the photo or mementos he or she placed on the *ofrenda*.

- Invite the guests to talk about the photos or mementos they brought and to place them on the *ofrenda*.
- Pray the following together.

Leader 1: Loving God, we ask you to bless our relatives and friends who have died.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Leader 2: Bring them and all the people who have died into the light of your presence.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Leader 3: We hope to enjoy forever the vision of your glory, through Jesus Christ, from whom all good things come.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

How Do I Keep Jesus' Great Commandment?



In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second part is to love your neighbor as yourself.

Cut out the four heart squares on this page and then cut each heart into four parts. Form groups

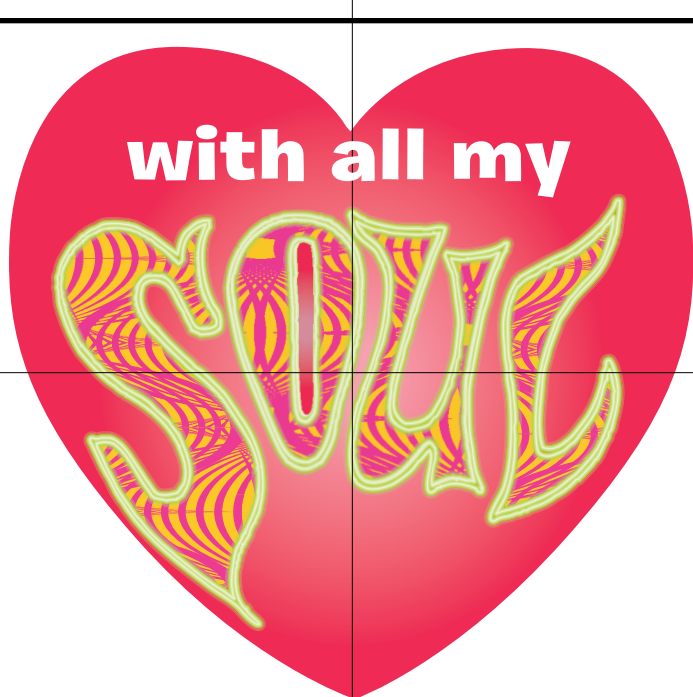
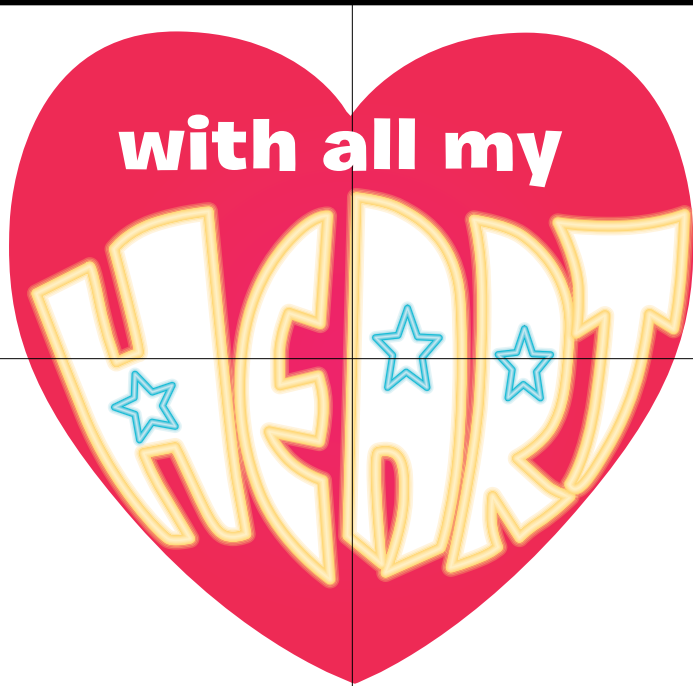
of three or four. Mix your squares with the writing side down. Take turns picking up a square and placing it in front of you. The goal is to complete all four squares.

If you pick up a piece you already have, return it to the pile. Do not pick again in that round. When you complete a square, tell the other players how you have loved God or

your neighbor in that way.

For example, if you finish the square that says "with all my strength," you can share how you have loved God by keeping your body healthy or how you have loved your neighbor by helping someone with a chore.

The game is over when everyone has four complete squares.



With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources.

or go to gospelweeklies.com/family



Pray

Help me, Jesus, to not get caught up in my busyness and forget to put you first. Amen.



Think

How does Jesus show you how you can live out the Great Commandment of loving God and neighbor?



Act

Pay careful attention to the prayers and readings during Mass. Try to find an example of loving God and loving others.

Imprimatur: +Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D., Bishop of Worcester, April 26, 2021. Theological Reviewer: Reverend Michael T. Martine, S.T.B., I.C.L.; Publisher: David Dziena; Editor: Nicholle Check; Designer: Jennifer Pofert. Printed in the USA.

VENTURE copyright © 2021 by Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc., sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption. Material in this issue may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form or format without special permission from the publisher. Page 1: Michael Tortora, pages 2–3: Shari Albers; page 4: Marcelino Truong/Bayard; page 5: EDA; page 6: TabitaZn/Shutterstock.com, AGCuesta/Shutterstock.com; page 7: Sally Brewer Lawrence; page 8: © Bayard Presse – Filotéo 226 – Illustration: Cécile Gambini.



There is no closer union with Jesus than when you receive him in the Eucharist. You too can say with St. Paul, “. . . and the life I now live is not my own but Christ is living in me.” —Rev. Msgr. Richard L. Carroll, V.F.

8. What Does the New Law Ask of Us?

The New Law is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For Christians, it completes and perfects the Old Law, which is summed up in the Ten Commandments.

The New Law is best expressed in the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon

includes eight sayings called the Beatitudes. A Beatitude is a blessing, and it names a reason to be happy.

But Jesus' Beatitudes probably confused his first listeners. Most people think it's bad to be poor, meek, hungry, or sad. But Jesus says that, in his Kingdom, God will turn all these bad

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called the children
of God.

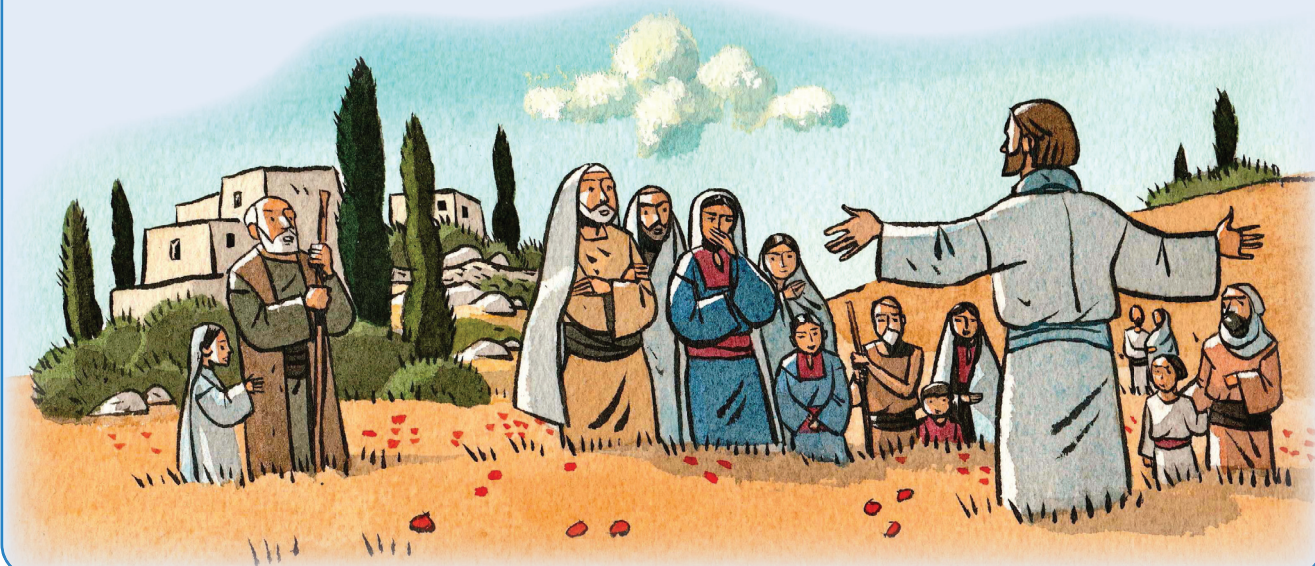
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

The Great Commandment

You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your
soul, and with all your mind. You
shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37, 39



Art credit: Marcelino Truong/Bayard, Inc.

things into good things. After believers reach the fullness of life in the Trinity, they will no longer know any poverty, powerlessness, hunger, or sorrow.

Those who live by the Beatitudes place their trust in God at all times. They are never rattled by life's ups and downs.

The Gospel of Jesus also challenges people to obey the Great Commandment. You can also find the Great Commandment in Matthew's Gospel.

See the opposite page for what the Beatitudes promise and for the Great Commandment.

9. What Are the Precepts of the Church?

In addition to the commands Christ gave us, the Church has given us laws to obey. They are called the precepts of the Church, and they remind us of what we need to do to grow in love of God and neighbor.

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from unnecessary labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the Eucharist during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. (Fasting is consuming less food than usual, and abstinence is giving up a particular food. On Ash Wednesday

and the Fridays of Lent, Catholics give up meat.)

5. You shall help provide for the needs of the Church.

10. Why Are Church Leaders Important?

Within the Church are many teachers of religion and many experts on the Catholic faith. But which of these are most important? Which ones should we listen to the most? It is the Pope and the bishops who preach the faith that all Catholics must believe and practice.

The light of the Holy Spirit fills these church leaders whenever they speak about matters of faith and morals. At such times, the Holy Spirit gives them the gift of infallibility. This means that the Pope and bishops speak without error whenever they discuss Catholic beliefs and the Catholic way of life.



Photo credit: Mike Doyle/Bayard, Inc.



VenTuRe

November 7, 2021

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

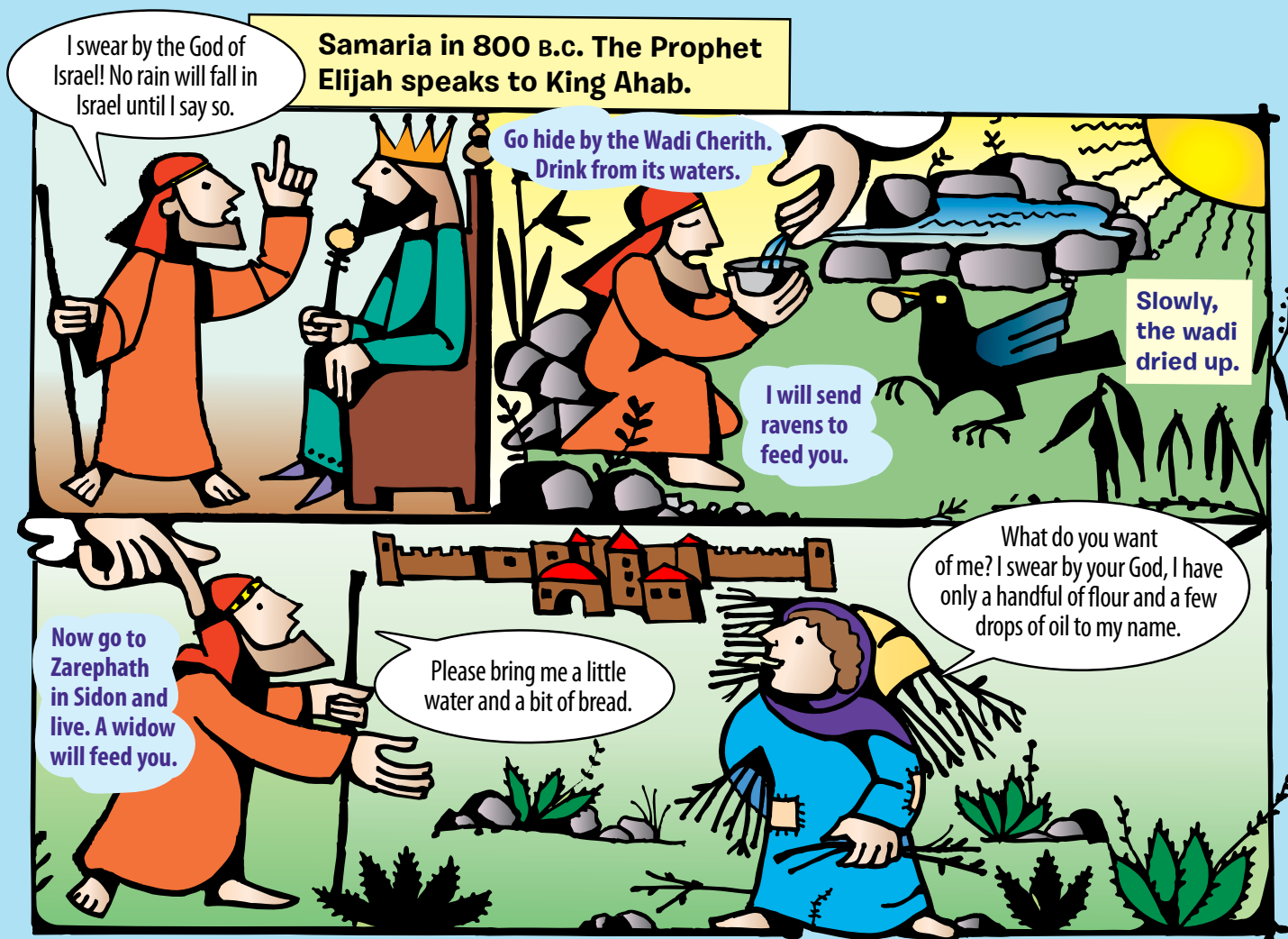


Elijah and a Widow Have Enough to Eat



Based on this Sunday's First Reading, 1 Kings 17:10-16

Also includes verses 1 Kings 17:1-9 and 1 Kings 18



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Elijah and the Widow (continued from page 1)



With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources  or go to gospelweeklies.com/family



Pray

Help me to see what I am withholding from you, Lord, and to give it freely. Amen.



Think

What have you held back from God?



Act

Visit a waterfall, listen to a powerful piece of music, or study the night sky. Reflect on how money, power, and importance are small in comparison.

Elijah said to all of the people, "Come here to me." He repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been destroyed.

Twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of Jacob.

Fills jars with water and pour it on the wood.

Do it again.

Do it a third time.

God of our ancestors, show us today that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, that I speak your words.

Answer me, Lord!
Answer me, that this people may know you and that you turn their hearts back to you.



God sent his fire down, and consumed the offering, and the wood, stones, and dust. The people said, "The Lord is God! The Lord is God."



And it did rain. When King Ahab told his wife, Queen Jezebel, all Elijah had done, she set out to kill him.

But that is another story. You can read it in 1 Kings 19.



Catholic FAITH WORD

PROPHET Someone who makes God's will known by speaking, writing, or acting on God's behalf.



THINK

- 1 What is the work of a prophet?
- 2 Why doesn't the widow want Elijah to stay with her? What is she like? What do her jar and jug symbolize?
- 3 Put yourself in the widow's place. Would you give your last food to a stranger?
- 4 What is Elijah like? How does he convince people Yahweh is God in Israel?



- 1 For what action does Jesus criticize the scribes in the Gospel?
- 2 How is the widow different from the scribes?
- 3 How is the widow in the Gospel like the widow who provided for Elijah? How is she like Jesus?
- 4 How do you share what you have?

How Much Is a Penny Worth?

Narrator: A large crowd of people was listening to Jesus.

Jesus 1: Watch out for the teachers of the Law, the scribes. They like to walk around in their long robes so that people will greet them with respect. They choose the places of honor in the synagogues and the best seats at banquets.

Jesus 2: Yet they take advantage of widows and steal their homes away from them. They make a point of saying long prayers, so everyone can see them. They will be punished for the way they live.

Narrator: Jesus was sitting near the Temple treasury where he could see the people who came to drop in money. Many rich people put in a lot of money. Then a poor widow came up and dropped in two little copper coins. They were worth a few cents.

Jesus 3: Amen, I say to you, that widow gave more to the treasury than all the others. They gave what they could spare without hurting. But she, a poor widow, gave the penny she had to live on.



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

The widows in this Sunday's readings teach us that love and faith never run out. In fact, they grow by being given to others. The jar of oil and pot of flour in the First Reading symbolize love that never runs out. The two coins the widow of the Gospel puts in the treasury express a generous thank-you for God's

Can Christians Share Too Much?

gifts, gifts a richer person might not have noticed. "The Church's love for the poor . . . is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor" (CCC, 2444).

A Christian can never give too much love or too many thanks. Our love for God and one another grow when we give.



- 1 Why might people hesitate to share what they have?
- 2 Imagine that you have spent all of your money. Whom do you know who would always help you in times of need?



When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy, that you can receive Holy Communion often! It's our life and support in this life. Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself.

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard



Why do we have to watch out for each other? Why do we have to take care of the planet? Why do we have to share? The answer to all three of these questions is *Catholic social teaching*. Turn to page 51 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to learn about rights and responsibilities. This is one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching.

At the Eucharist, We Share What We Have

When the first Christians celebrated the Eucharist, they did it along with a meal, just as Jesus and his disciples celebrated the first Eucharist at the Last Supper. This meal was a potluck where everyone brought what they could and ate together, the rich sharing food with the poor.

When the Church grew larger and Christians no longer ate a common meal along with the Eucharist, they brought their gifts of food for the poor to the altar instead.

The priest received gifts of live chickens, cheeses, and olive oil along with the gifts of bread and wine. He washed his hands after handling these

gifts—an action that is still part of the Eucharist today. The deacons distributed the food to members of the community who needed it.

Today, people put money in the collection at Sunday Mass. Some churches have special boxes to collect food and clothing for those who need it. At Mass, members of the community bring the collection to the altar along with the gifts of bread and wine.

Talk with your parents about how your family gives to your parish and other organizations that support people who are in need.



Look at the list below. Mark the items that the collection in your parish supports. In the blank spaces, write the name or purpose of any special collections you know about in your parish.

- ☐ upkeep of parish buildings
- ☐ people who are poor in your parish or city
- ☐ parish religious education programs
- ☐ work of missionaries
- ☐ parish school
- ☐ victims of floods, earthquakes, fires
- ☐ a sister parish in another place



Widows in the Bible

Widows are women whose husbands have died. In the times of Elijah and Jesus, women grew up dependent on their fathers. After they married, they were dependent on their husbands. Women lost their source of food and shelter when their husbands died. A widow could not inherit her husband's property. Widows depended on relatives and friends to survive.

Israel's prophets preached that the way the People of Israel cared for widows and their children showed how just or unjust the Israelites were. Widows and their children were Israel's poorest

people. Care for them measured how faithful people were to God. Catholic social teaching calls this the "option for the poor." Our Church teaches us to help the poorest people among us first.

In both the story of Elijah and in Sunday's Gospel, widows are heroines. The widow who helps Elijah has so little that she fears that she and her son will soon starve to death. Yet she believes Elijah's promise that they will always have enough and shares with him.

The widow in the Gospel gives to the Temple the money she needs to live. Both widows show us what generosity is.

Father Damien

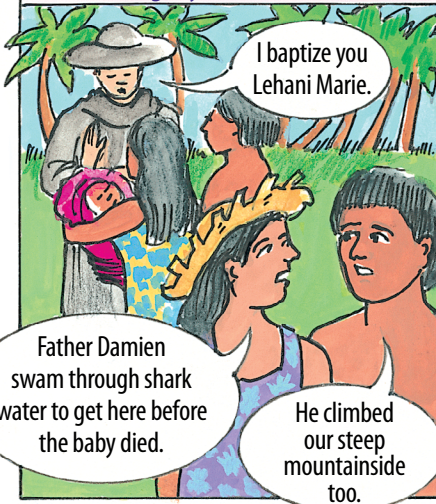
Missionary to Molokai • Martyr of Charity • Patron of Lepers

1858, Leuven, Belgium. Joseph de Veuster joined the Missionary Priests of the Sacred Heart and took the name of Damien.

I commission you to the Island of Hawaii.



Damien worked on the island for eight years.



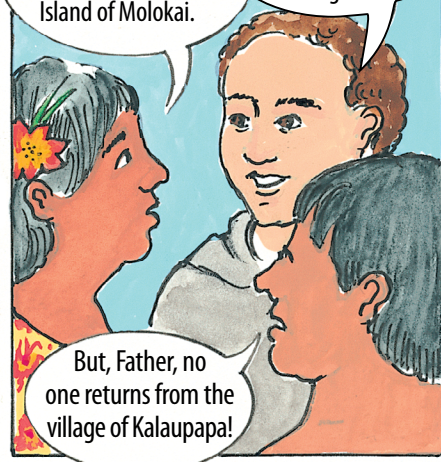
I baptize you Lehani Marie.

Father Damien swam through shark water to get here before the baby died.

He climbed our steep mountainside too.

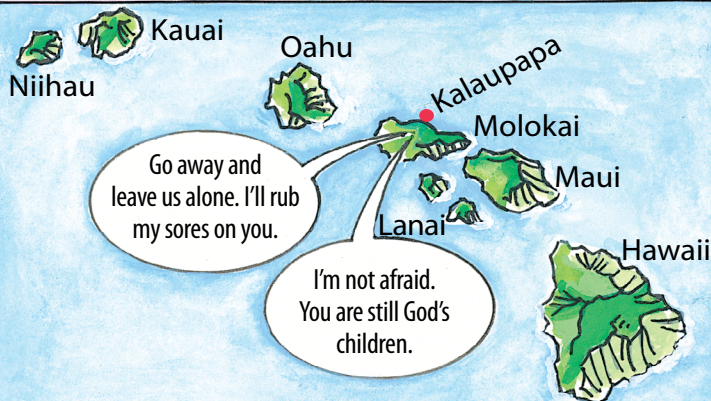
Hundreds of lepers are living on the Island of Molokai.

The bishop says they need a priest. I will go.



But, Father, no one returns from the village of Kalaupapa!

Molokai had no decent houses or wells, not even a graveyard. Damien changed all that.



For ten years, Damien worked alone at Kalaupapa as doctor, gravedigger, sheriff, and carpenter.

Now the orphans will have a place to live.



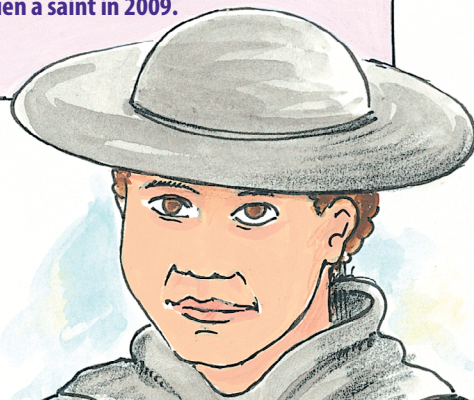
It gives all of us hope.

One night, after twelve years on Molokai, Damien was soaking his feet. He glanced down and saw blisters forming.



This water is boiling hot, but my feet don't feel it. Now I am a leper too.

Damien's work encouraged others to do research. Today, medicine can control leprosy, also called Hansen's disease. Pope Benedict XVI named Damien a saint in 2009.



Let's form a community band.

Father Damien thinks lepers can do anything.

He helps us respect ourselves.

Damien worked another four years as a leper before he died in 1889.

Saint Damien lived his vocation, or call, by serving the people who lived on Molokai. The Church celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week, November 7–13. Pray for those who are considering religious vocations.

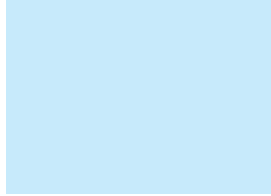
Everyone Has Rights, Everyone Has Responsibilities



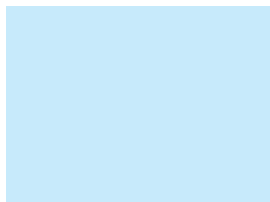
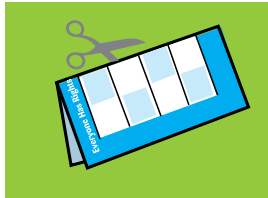
View an assembled project at gospelweeklies.com/lesson-updates, or link directly using the QR code.



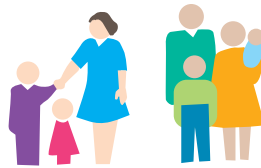
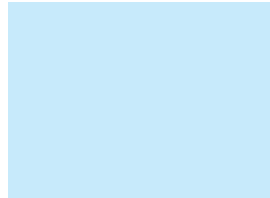
Clean Air and Water



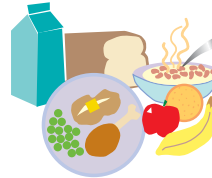
Safe Neighborhood



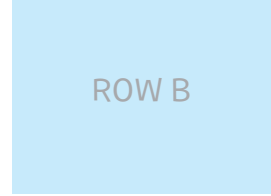
Practice Faith



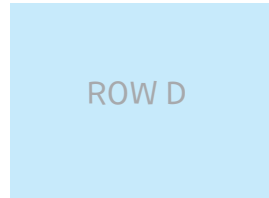
Loving Family



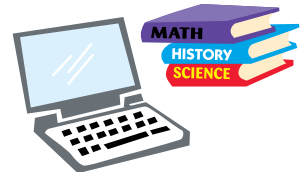
Good food



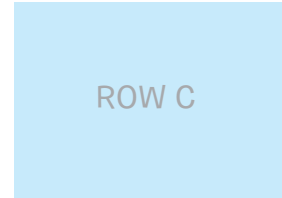
Health Care



ROW A



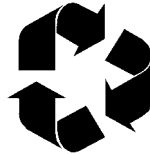
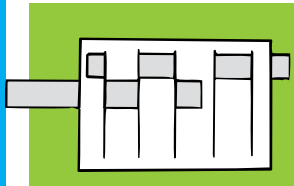
Education



ROW C



Shelter



Recycle, Use Less



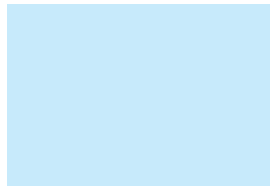
ROW A



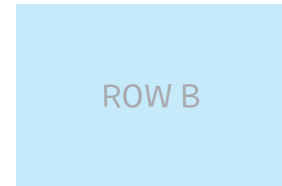
End Hunger



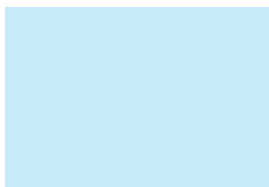
Contribute



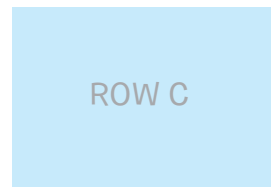
Listen, Learn, Participate



ROW B



Keep It Clean



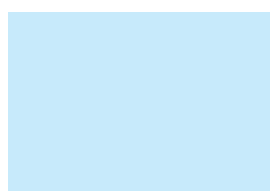
ROW C



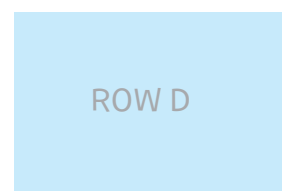
Eat Right, Exercise



Do Your Part



Help Others Find Shelter



ROW D

EVERY

HAS THE

AND
BASIC

SITIES.

EVERY

HAS

SIBILITY

OTHERS.

HUMAN
PERSON

RIGHT

TO
LIFE

NECES

HUMAN
PERSON

THE

RESPON

TO
HELP

Treasures of the Catholic Faith

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Society ensures social justice when it provides the conditions that allow associations or individuals to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation. Social justice is linked to the common good and the exercise of authority (CCC, 1928).

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

All human life is sacred. Those actions are good which protect the dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

All persons have the right to belong to society—and the duty to seek the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has a right to life and to everything that is necessary for life. Every person has the duty to defend others' rights to these things.

Option for the Poor and Needy

The story of the Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46) tells us to put the concerns of the poor and needy ahead of everyone else's concerns.



Photo credit: CIRIC

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Everyone has a right to a good job that pays fair wages. Everyone has the right to own property and to invest money. Workers have the right to form unions and to organize activities that protect their rights.

Solidarity

We are one human family. All human beings deserve respect, and it makes no difference what country they come from, what color they are, how rich or poor they are, and what ideas they believe in.

Care for God's Creation

We show respect for God by caring for God's Creation. Our faith in God calls us to be good stewards of the earth God gave us.