

LIVING FAITH

JANUARY 15, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

**"This is my Son,
the Beloved;
in Him I am well pleased."**



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

John the Baptist recognized Jesus, and understood, deep in his heart, that Jesus is the Son of God. This changed John's life. His meeting with Jesus brought all of his work into focus, and made everything very clear. He understood that his purpose was to prepare people to meet Jesus, to hear His message, to love Him, and to follow Him. What about you? Where have you met Jesus? Did you see the Holy Spirit descending like a dove? Probably not; but that dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is the gift of Jesus, His continuing presence in our world. And where there is love, there is Jesus. Where there is peace, there is Jesus. Where there is compassion, there is Jesus. When you experience love, peace, joy, compassion, kindness, understanding and enlightenment, you experience Jesus. Jesus has entered your life in Baptism, and His presence was confirmed in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Every time you receive Holy Communion, you are strengthened to go out and make Jesus more present in the world. Jesus is the Son of God. You are brothers and sisters of Jesus, sent out into the world to continue His presence and His work, bringing His love, compassion, kindness, peace and joy wherever you go. This is how you testify, today, that Jesus is the Son of God.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE AT HOME

WE ARE ALL PART OF GODS FAMILY.



WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR SOMEONE ELSE TODAY?

- After Christmas... clear out closets and give some clothing away—make sure that everything is in good condition, and that you're not giving away something you wouldn't wear yourself.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room... saving energy saves the environment.
- Only run the tap for as long as you need... water is precious.
- Say "thank you" as many times as you can.
- Look for ways to surprise people with words and acts of kindness.
- Save your change in a can and donate once a month to a charity.
- YOUR IDEAS...
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YOU ASKED... What is “Social Justice,” and what does the Church teach about it?

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of documents written by popes, Church councils and conference of bishops. Below are some key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. All human life is precious, and must be protected and nurtured, and every person must be assisted to grow to their fullest potential.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The measure of a society lies in how we treat our most vulnerable members. We have a special call to care for the most vulnerable and tend to the needs of poor and marginalized people.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be.

Care for God's Creation

Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



Development and Peace (The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace) is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis.

Development and Peace is a membership led organization supported by parish collections, individual donations and government grants, principally from the Canadian International Development Agency.

Our vision: **Committed to change**

Our mission: **Support partners in the Global South who promote alternatives to unfair social, political and economic structures, and educate the Canadian population about the causes of poverty and mobilize Canadians towards actions for change.**

Our action: **For over 40 years, Development and Peace has supported 15,200 local initiatives in fields such as agriculture, education, community action as well as the consolidation of peace and advocacy for human rights in 70 countries.**

Our objectives: **Inspired by Gospel values and in particular the preferential option for the poor, our objectives are to support the actions of people in the Global South so that they can take control of their destiny and educate Canadians on issues related to North-South imbalance.**

Our belief: **We believe that Canadians of all religious beliefs have a responsibility to help the world's poor and disadvantaged, either by urging governments, corporations and others to implement change, or by donating time or money to support development efforts. Populations in the Global South have access to a better life provided they have the necessary economic and social instruments.**

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<https://www.dev.org/en>