

LIVING FAITH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 11: 25-30



At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens.' How reassuring these words are! What does Jesus mean? Will He take away our burdens? Clearly not. But He does promise to share them with us. He uses the image of a yoke. A yoke is the collar that ties two working animals together, so that they remain in step with one another, and one does not get ahead of the other. Animals yoked together are partners, sharing the load. They come to know each others' moves and patterns very intimately.

What a beautiful image this is for us and Jesus. He does not take away our burdens, but shoulders them with us, and makes them lighter by sharing them. He knows us intimately, knows every step of ours so well that He can match His steps to ours. This is our God, a God who became one of us, has walked the road that we walk, and carried the burdens we carry. The image of two creatures yoked together is an image of love and fidelity. God is faithful, and will never leave us to carry our burdens or face our perils alone.

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

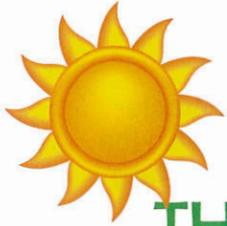
Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.





I Believe...



THE MYSTERY OF CREATION (part 2)

Reflections by Fr. Gregory Carruthers, SJ

God creates human beings in his own "image and likeness". Since God is Good, we are created good - no one is a mistake. Even more important, since God is Love, we are created precisely as persons, that is, we are created to be in a relationship of love first with God and then with each other.

God entrusts his Creation to us to take care of it with him and for him, to bring it to completion and perfection. God creates us to be co-creators with him, especially in the continuation of the human race through each family.

Creation, however, is only the beginning of God's revelation of himself. There was more to come. The fullness of God's revelation of himself is in Jesus Christ. The Father sends his Son into Creation, into our human history. His Beloved Son, the Word-made-flesh, God-with-us, is Jesus Christ.

Most important of all, Jesus is 'for us and for our salvation'. He is also revealed, however, to be the origin, meaning and fulfillment of all Creation. From the foundation of the world, Creation is through Christ, in Christ and for Christ. The Father makes his glory most visible for us in Jesus. Jesus is the Father's most intimate and most loving invitation for us to get to know him and to enter into loving communion with him.

THE GATHERING PLACE



The Gathering Place continues to provide essential services and programs to the most vulnerable members of society. As you may know, this community service centre has been operating within the downtown core of St John's since 1994. It began as a response to the needs of individuals seeking nourishment from the convent doors of both the Presentation Sisters and the Sisters of Mercy.

The Gathering Place currently provides critical supports to over 900 guests aged 25 and older, presenting from all areas of the province and increasingly, new immigrants looking for supportive living solutions.

All guests present with one or more of; complex mental and physical challenges, learning disabilities and addictions. Many are victims of abuse, and all have income and food insecurities. The guests are street people, convicted offenders and others who have fallen through the cracks in their communities. Many have previously been removed from existing community programs and services.

The services of TGP are offered to individuals who are homeless, or living in less than desirable housing conditions, as well as those members of society who do not have adequate supports. The Gathering Place fosters independence, self-respect, dignity and personal growth through a network of peer supports.

At The Gathering Place, our philosophy is anchored, first and foremost, by our concern for the personal well-being of our guests. From there, our core services focus on providing basic health and wellness supports, supplemented by services that enhance people's ability and by association their sense of self-worth.

With these supports in place, we believe the guests of The Gathering Place have the potential to regain a level of control in their lives amidst very challenging circumstances.

Personal Well Being

- Dining Room (250 + people per day receive a nutritious meal, daily breakfast program)
- Hot Showers/Toiletries
- Laundry Service
- Clothing Boutique
- Hair Care
- Social Room, safe social interaction

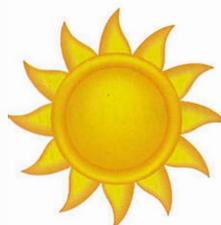
Visit: www.kindnesswanted.ca

Health and Wellness

- Collaborative Health Care Clinic (Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers)
- Therapeutic Foot Care
- Counseling
- Housing Access
- Supported Living

Ability Enhancement

- Adult Literacy
- Computer Access
- Therapeutic Arts
- Social Enterprise Initiatives



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