LIVING FAITH

JANUARY 22, 2017
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Matthew 4:12-23

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother,
casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen.
And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'
Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.
Jesus went throughout Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom
and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

"Follow me,
and I will make you fish for people."

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

You probably noticed before that Jesus called these first four disciples in pairs. Did you ever realize before that they were two pairs of brothers? Peter and Andrew were brothers. James and John were brothers. This is a really important point for families to ponder, think about, pray about and talk about. Jesus speaks to us and calls to us in the middle of our everyday lives. Jesus speaks in the midst of and through the ordinary events of daily life in our families.

"Sure, sure," you say. It's easy to see Jesus when a child makes a gift for Dad. It's easy to see Jesus when things are going well. It's easy to recognize Jesus in the joyful visits of grandparents. But what about in the more challenging times? Jesus is there, too! Maybe Jesus is especially there. When there is sickness in the family, and siblings struggle to care for an aging mother or father, Jesus is there. He is present in the love that these children show, and in the love the parent has poured out over a lifetime. When one family member struggles and makes things difficult for the others, Jesus is there in the patience and the hard work that love sometimes requires. Love is not always easy, and Jesus showed us that when he was sometimes rejected, and when he suffered and even died. Today, we hear that Jesus calls families. How is Jesus calling you? What is he offering? How will you respond?

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WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?
A FAMILY VALUES ACTIVITY

In each column, pick the three words that stand out as being most important to you. These are probably the values you hold dear. Talk about them as a family.

ADULT WORDS	YOUNG PEOPLES' WORDS
accountability	doing what you say you will do
achievement	reaching your goals
balance (home/work)	balancing school work and play time
commitment	working hard on what we believe in
compassion	being kind and understanding
competence	being good at what you do
continuous learning	always learning
cooperation	working well with other people
courage	being brave
creativity	using your imagination
enthusiasm	being excited and confident
efficiency	making good use of time
ethics	doing the right thing
excellence	doing excellent work or sport
fairness	being fair
family	family
financial stability	having enough money
friendships	having friends
future generations	caring about children of the future
health	keeping healthy
honesty	telling the truth
humor/fun	laughing and having fun
independence	able to do things on your own
integrity	being honest and trustworthy
initiative	making decisions for yourself
making a difference	making life better for others
open communication	talking openly and freely with others
openness	telling others about thoughts/feelings
personal fulfillment	having a full and happy life
personal growth	improving myself
respect	showing respect
responsibility	being responsible
risk-taking	being brave to try something new
self-discipline	controlling my behaviour
success	being successful
trust	trusting others
wisdom	being wise

YOU ASKED...

What does the Church have to say about people who are differently abled?

Did you know that, on July 17, 2000, the Roman Catholic Church published ***THE PERSON WITH DISABILITIES: THE DUTIES OF THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY.*** Here are some of the important principles contained within that document:

- The richness of a person with disability is a constant challenge to the Church and society to open to the mystery such persons present.
- **The person with disabilities has rights and duties like every other individual.**
- Any violation of the fundamental principle of equality, any discrimination or negatively differentiated treatment of persons with disabilities ...is a violation of this person's human rights.
- **Every form of active commitment to help the person with disabilities and his/her family context helps to improve the quality of life.**
- The Church should work to propose – in all her activity of formation, liturgy and solidarity – a positive image of the person with disabilities. The concept of charity must be lived to the full, remembering that the person with disabilities must be an active subject in a relationship of love and not only the object of charitable actions.
- **The Church must be on guard to protect the guarantee of health-assistance, in particular she must work to ensure that investments in the field of prevention are respectful of the right to life of every person with a disability.**
- The Church should promote a large scale social movement to remove all physical barriers and obstacles which impede access to communication and information beginning from within the Church herself: this entails not only removing architectonic barriers in churches, but also the diffusion of suitable means to allow every person with disabilities to live the life of the Church (translations in Braille; handbooks special prepared for persons with learning difficulties; celebrations accompanied by interpreters for the deaf; the use of a suitable terminology in the ambit of ecclesial information bodies...). In particular the Church should ensure maximum accessibility to her immense artistic heritage and numerous structures of accommodation for pilgrims including the people with disabilities.
- **The Church must assume the task of representing in all political areas the interests of those persons unable to defend their rights in their own.**

Sunscribe to our weekly resource at Familycatechesis@rcsj.org

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WHAT IS L'ARCHE?

L'Arche was founded in 1964 by Canadian humanitarian and social visionary, Jean Vanier. Distressed by the institutionalization and the isolation and loneliness of people with intellectual disabilities, Jean Vanier invited two men from an institution to live with him in a small house. He called the house "L'Arche," a French word for "the ark" in the biblical story of Noah and the flood. L'Arche began in Canada in 1969. Today, there are over 140 L'Arche communities in 40 countries on 6 continents.

29 communities across Canada

Atlantic

L'Arche Antigonish

L'Arche Cape Breton

L'Arche Halifax

L'Arche Homefires

L'Arche Saint John

Québec

L'Arche Abitibi-Témiscamingue

L'Arche Agapè

L'Arche Beloeil

L'Arche Joliette

L'Arche l'Étoile

L'Arche le Printemps

L'Arche Mauricie

L'Arche Montreal

Western Canada

L'Arche Calgary

L'Arche Comox Valley

L'Arche Edmonton L'Arche Lethbridge

L'Arche Greater Vancouver

L'Arche Saskatoon

L'Arche Winnipeg

Ontario

L'Arche Arnprior

L'Arche Daybreak

L'Arche Hamilton

L'Arche London

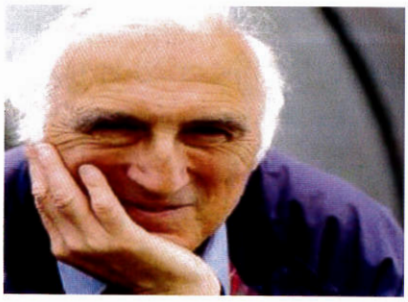
L'Arche North Bay

L'Arche Ottawa

L'Arche Stratford

L'Arche Sudbury

L'Arche Toronto



In L'Arche, people who have intellectual disabilities and those who come to assist share life and daytime activities together in family-like settings that are integrated into local neighbourhoods. L'Arche in Canada has nearly 200 homes and workshops or day programs. These are grouped into what L'Arche calls "communities."

There are 29 communities of L'Arche located across Canada from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island. L'Arche communities are open and welcoming of neighbours and friends and often engage in various collaborations at the local level.

Each L'Arche community consists of a small number of households where people share in decision-making and each person contributes as they are able. L'Arche believes that meaningful work or day-time activities are very important to a person's dignity. Many communities of L'Arche have day projects of various types. Some people in L'Arche may have regular jobs in the wider community, but most of the people with intellectual disabilities who come to live in L'Arche need considerable support and find competitive employment is not an option. L'Arche seeks to provide environments where people can reach their full potential, lead lives rich in relationships of mutuality, and have a valid place in society where they can contribute.

http://www.larche.ca:8080/