

# LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 21:28-32



'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus teaches in parables in order to give us glimpses of what God is like. In this Gospel, where is God? It's obvious, isn't it? God is the landowner, who sends his children out into the field to do his work. Who are you and I, then? We are the children, invited by God, called by God, to go out and do the work of God—not in a field, exactly, but in the "field" that is our homes, our places of work, our schools, the nursing homes where we live, the sports clubs and arenas in which we spend so much of our time. Some of us go to Mass every Sunday, but we don't allow that celebration of the Eucharist to change us. If that's true, then we are like the son in the story, who says "I go, sir," but does not go. Through our Baptism and Confirmation, and renewed every time we celebrate the Eucharist, God sends us out into the "field." We are sent out to bring the love, mercy, joy and peace of God wherever we go, to change the world just by being God's children. Will you go?

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### A Family Prayer for Blessing of Your Pet:

Dearest God, Heavenly Father, maker of all living creatures, we ask you to bless [N.], who brings so much joy into our lives.

By the power of Your love, may he/she continue to bring happiness.

May we always praise You for all Your beauty in creation. Blessed are You, God, in all Your creatures! Amen.

### **BLESSING OF ANIMALS for a Parish or Community Group**

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. Amen.

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named.

Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

## St. Francis & the Animals

St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, is also famous for his relationship with God's creation. St. Francis saw animals, and all of nature, as his brothers and sisters since they all have the same Creator. Since he recognized God's reflection in all creation, he therefore loved all fellow creatures, no matter how small.



### **YOUTH**

### **LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!**

The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has announced a new website in preparation for the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place during October 2018 on the theme **"Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment"**. Youth up to Age 29 are invited to participate. This week, throughout our Archdiocese, our youth are invited to share their voice. Visit:

<http://youth.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>



# CATECHIST SUNDAY

Oct. 1, 2017

## We are all Catechists

“...Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and knowledge of God. If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then, we must constantly be missionaries. The work of evangelization enriches the mind and the heart; it opens up spiritual horizons; it makes us more and more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and it takes us beyond our limited spiritual constructs. A committed missionary knows the joy of being a spring which spills over and refreshes others.”  
(*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 272)

Sometime this week, as a family, Google and watch Pope Francis in a TED Talk. ***His Holiness Pope Francis: Why the Only Future Worth Building Includes Everyone***

***A link to Pope Francis' talk can be found here:***

[https://www.ted.com/talks/pope\\_francis\\_why\\_the\\_only\\_future\\_worth\\_building\\_includes\\_everyone?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/pope_francis_why_the_only_future_worth_building_includes_everyone?language=en)

## A CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Good and gracious God, You call us to work in your vineyard so that others may know of your love and care for them. Strengthen us as we set out as missionary disciples so that we may be faithful messengers of your good news. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

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# SAINTS OF CANADA

## St. François Montmorency de Laval



*François de Laval*

Laval was born on 30 April 1623 in Montigny-sur-Avre in the ancient Province of Perche, to a noble, but not very wealthy, family. He was the third of eight children born to Hugues de Laval and Michelle de Péricard. He was an intelligent child, and his parents raised him to prize the virtue of charity. He received a very good education at the College of La Flèche, and it was there that he learned of the work being done in evangelization in New France by the Jesuit missionaries. He began to dream of being a missionary in New France. The deaths of both of his elder brothers put a lot of pressure on the young Francois to put his education on hold, and to become the breadwinner for his family.

But Francois did not give in to this pressure. Instead, he helped his mother to get the family's affairs in order, and then arranged to renounce his rights of inheritance, which were then transferred to his brother Jean-Louis.

Francois de Laval was ordained a priest on May 1, 1647, and was very quickly put in a position of influence in his diocese in France. In 1654, he was offered the opportunity to go to Asia as a missionary. He resigned his position in order to become a missionary, but the offer fell through, and he then spent three years in charitable works and in restructuring a number of monasteries which had become too lax and were badly administered. His abilities brought him to the attention of the bishop of the area, and soon, to his great joy, Laval was appointed the Apostolic Vicar of New France, and given the rank of bishop. He arrived in New France on June 16, 1659, serving as bishop in an area that had not had a bishop in over 50 years.

Laval was known as a man of great prayer, great charity and strong ability. In 1663 he opened the Grand Séminaire de Québec, a school which trained not only clergy, but the leadership of New France. He oversaw the expansion of the Church in New France, bringing clergy from France to serve, and training new clergy at home.

Francois de Laval died on May 6, 1708. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980, and canonized by Pope Francis in 2014. Laval's remains have been entombed in a shrine for public veneration in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Québec, which he had founded.

*We pray: Dear Saint François, you were Québec's first shepherd, a good and brave man who was a key person in our country's social and religious history. You travelled on foot, by canoe and wearing snowshoes to visit and comfort many people. Intercede for us, so that all Canadian citizens may be inspired and never tire to find ways to live out acts of mutual forgiveness in homes and communities everywhere. Amen.*