

# LIVING FAITH

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2018

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY  
MARK 9: 2-10



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

## TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

What transfigures people? What makes them shine, and encourages them to do good things, wonderful things, things that they never before thought possible? Only love can do this! In today's Gospel, Jesus takes three of his disciples up a high mountain. In the Scriptures, mountains were usually understood as places very close to God, and where God was likely to appear.

On this mountain, God reveals His love for Jesus, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" And God's love transfigures Jesus. We all long to hear these transfiguring words of love. We all long to hear somebody say to us, "This my son/my daughter, my Beloved." God says these words to each of us when we are baptized, and continues to say these words to us in many, if we only have ears to listen.

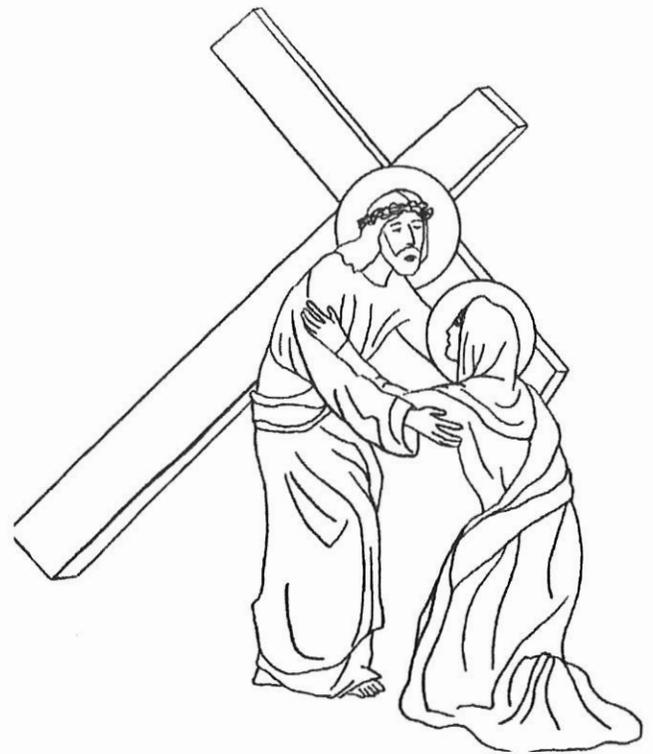
**PONDER AND DISCUSS...** How does God tell you that you are God's beloved?

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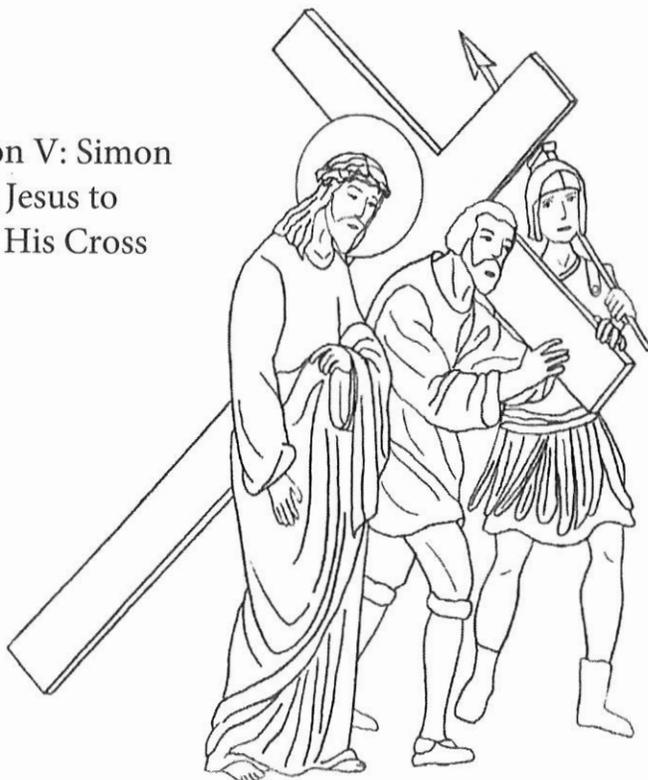
*The Stations of the Cross is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection, and to simply experience the visual images to reflect on Christ's love for us. As a family color and reflect on each station as we journey through Lent. Keep each week to complete a family set.*

Station III: Jesus Falls the First Time



Station IV: Jesus meets His Mother

Station V: Simon helps Jesus to carry His Cross





## LAUDATO SI' POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

### LOOKING AT THE INTRODUCTION

*Laudato Si'* begins with the words that become the title: *Laudato si', mi' Signore* – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” These are the words that begin the “Canticle of the Creatures, a beautiful song written by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. They remind us that being in relationship with God and all Creation is to be in relationship with our earth and all who also call her “home.” Earth is “like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us” (1). Pope Francis then tells us that, “This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her...” (2).

Pope Francis then tells us why he has chosen St. Francis of Assisi as his patron for this encyclical-- St. Francis was able to approach the world around him as a “brother” with affection, wonder, and praise, Pope Francis sees him as the “example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically” (10).

Pope Francis ends the introduction on a note of hope. He has hope that our attitude can shift from being consumers, masters, and exploiters to one that exudes sobriety, care, and joy.

#### TO PONDER AND DISCUSS:

- Do you share Pope Francis' concern for our common home?
- Where have you seen signs of damage to earth, or to our environment?

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

*Lent offers us a time to reflect on our lives and how we can come into a right relationship with God. Part of being in a right relationship with God is being in right relationship with His Creation. The Catholic Social Teachings offer guidelines as to how we can live in a right relationship with the world around us. This Lent, **Development and Peace – Caritas Canada** invites you to learn more about these Social Teachings of the Church and how our partners all over the world are applying them, and to apply them in your life this Season and beyond!*

<b>LEBANON</b>	<p><b><u>Participation</u></b> How we live affects the dignity of the individual and the progress of society. All persons are entitled to participate in community and in decisions that affect their lives, and cannot be excluded for any reason. Development and Peace's partner <b>ADYAN</b> in Lebanon encourages participation by providing training and networking to empower people (especially youth) of all cultures and religions to build peace, reconciliation, coexistence, and inclusive citizenship in the Middle East.</p>	<b>NIGERIA</b>	<p><b><u>Preferential Option for the Poor</u></b> The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable are treated. This does not call us to focus on the poor to the exclusion of others, but simply to prioritize those who are in most need of <i>solidarity</i>. Our partner <b>SERAC</b> in Nigeria provides training to community leaders in the country's poorest communities who are at risk of having their land stolen by the government, to inform them of their rights and to equip them to engage in dialogue with the government.</p>
<b>PERU</b>	<p><b><u>Common Good</u></b> We must all consider the good of others, and the good of the whole human family. We must love our neighbours, locally and globally, and prioritize the human family over commercial interests Our Partner, the <b>Bartolome de Las Casas Institute</b> in Peru offers courses in responsible community leadership, to strengthen people's capacity to create dialogue, consensus, participation, and consultation in their communities.</p>	<b>CAMBODIA</b>	<p><b><u>Rights and Responsibilities</u></b> Rights arise from what we need to live as God intended us to. These are innately linked to our responsibility to ensure the rights of others – to not take more than we need, at the expense of others. Our Partner, the <b>Indigenous Community Support Organization</b> in Cambodia trains minority Indigenous communities in the country to defend their land rights and to develop economic activities that allow them to live in dignity.</p>

<p><b><u>Dignity of the Human Person</u></b> Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. The Church calls for Integral Human Development, which addresses the <i>whole</i> person (social, economic, political, ecological, spiritual) and <i>every</i> person.</p>	<p><b><u>Solidarity</u></b> We are all part of the human family and we are all interconnected and interdependent. We must see ourselves in others and collaborate toward solutions. We are <i>all in this together!</i></p>	<p><b><u>Stewardship of Creation</u></b> The Earth is sacred. Creation has its own intrinsic value. We have a responsibility to protect and to cherish the Earth's ecological diversity, beauty, and life-sustaining properties.</p>
<p><b><u>Economic Justice</u></b> The economy must serve people, and not the other way around. All persons have a right to dignified work, and to fair wages and working conditions. Working is a form of participating in Creation!</p>	<p><b><u>Subsidiarity &amp; the Role of Government</u></b> The state is an instrument to build human dignity, human rights, and the common good. Such functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, so that everyone may participate.</p>	<p><b><u>Peace</u></b> To be in right relationship with God and with each other. Peace is the fruit of Charity and the consequence of Justice. It is the sign of <i>caritas</i> ('love') in action!</p>

For more information about our partners and ideas about how you and your family can apply these Social Teachings, visit

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

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