

LIVING FAITH

*Fourth Sunday
of Easter*



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

April 22, 2018

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 10.11-18



'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

"I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep." Today, Jesus reveals himself in the Gospel as the Good Shepherd—the loving, attentive shepherd who cares for his flock, watches over them, sees harm and danger coming and stays with the flock through the peril, who truly knows his sheep, and who would give up his life for the sheep. Of course, the sheep are people. We are the sheep. Jesus would do all of this for us; He did it all, and in fact, Jesus still does it for us! Today, Jesus acts through people. You and I are called to care for others, really get to know our people, to love them, and to walk with them through their trials and perils, and—yes—even to lay down our lives for others.

PONDER AND DISCUSS... What shepherds have you known in your life? What shepherds do you see in the world around you? How are you a shepherd?

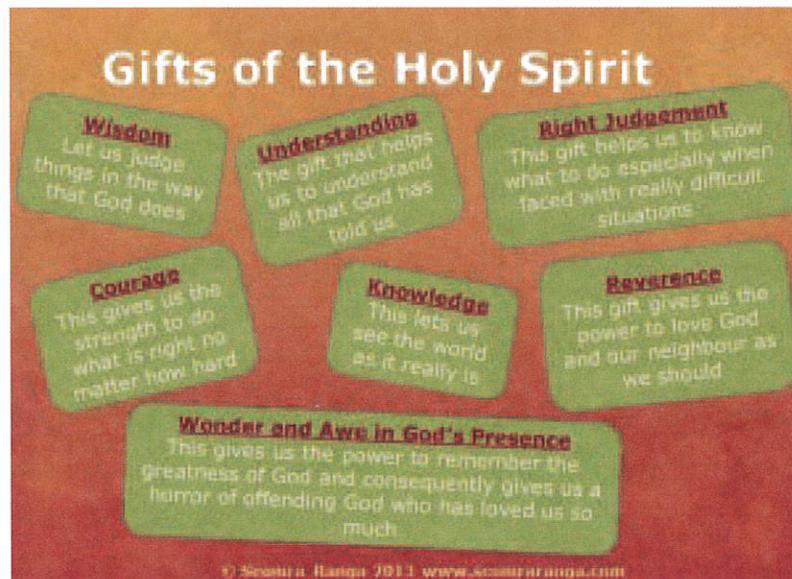
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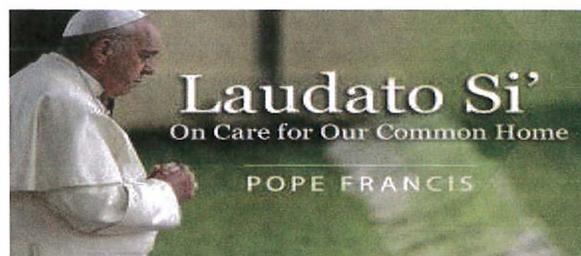


Easter - Sharing our Faith



During the Easter Season, many of our brothers and sisters will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. As we journey through this week, as a family, take some time to reflect on the Gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit. Share your stories. As your journey through this week, name some ways the Gifts of the Spirit can be seen and felt in our family. Name examples. At week's end, dialogue and share your examples and experiences. And take some special time to pray for our newly confirmed and those preparing to celebrate over the coming weeks!





LAUDATO SI'

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME LOOKING AT CHAPTER FOUR (PART 2)

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

Chapter 4 is filled with examples of realities usually considered in isolation but should rather be brought together and seen in a more comprehensive, integral view. These include:

- The relationship of global economics with local cultures, customs, and values (143-146)
- The relationship between our living spaces (like the architecture of our homes and the design of our neighborhoods and cities), our daily life, and our own behavior/happiness (147-154)
- The relationship of the way we think about our bodies and the way we think about the rest of creation (155)
- The relationship of our current generation with future generations (159-162)

For Pope Francis, the only solution is one that “demands an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature” (139).

TO PONDER AND DISCUSS:

- Does Pope Francis' view of the interconnectedness of all things change your view of the world at all?
- In view of Pope Francis' words, what kind of solution would you suggest to combat poverty, restore dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protect nature?

Watch a video about Laudato Si' here: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/laudatosi/>

Ruah Counselling Center, supported by the *Archbishop's Appeal*



About Us

Ruah Counselling Centre provides individual, couple and family counselling as well as psycho-educational groups. Our services seek to support interdependence between individuals, relationships, communities and our environments. We provide individual, couple and family counselling in the areas of anxiety, depression, trauma, grief, stress, anger, worklife challenges, life transitions, parenting and interpersonal relationships.

Our psychosocial groups are based on the following five pillars:

1. Parenting
2. Relationship Building
3. Wellness
4. Youth
5. Spirituality

Our services are client-focussed and goal-oriented. We provide professional counselling services in an environment which supports client autonomy and well-being.

What does 'Ruah' mean?

The word "Ruah" is a Hebrew word that means "Spirit". Ruah Counselling Centre believes in the intrinsic value of each person and in the need for steady attention to the quality of life we are creating for ourselves and our relationships.

Counselling can be an act of hope as we respond to the stirring within our lives to make changes to deepen self-awareness and relationships in a spirit of continual growth and development as people. Often, during one's life stages, counselling may be needed to deal with serious life challenges and can require facing painful life experiences and issues that require exploring physical, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and/or social dimensions.

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