

LIVING FAITH

September 23

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GOSPEL TODAY

Mark 9:30-37

Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house he asked them,
'What were you arguing about on the way?'
But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.
He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.'
Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

In our world today, it is the plight of children that draws our attention to the cries of the world. Millions of children have spent most or all of their lives in refugee camps. Children are all too often the victims of human trafficking. In areas of the world torn by violence, young children are often pressed into military service, and become soldiers before they have a chance to grow up. Where there is famine and drought, children suffer first. On our own doorstep, children go to school hungry.

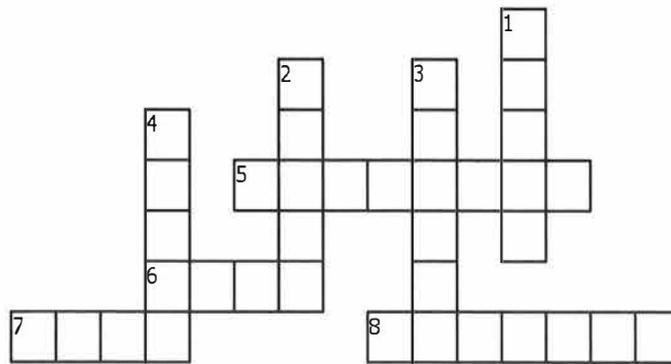
- In the context of our world today, what does it mean to welcome children in Jesus' name?
- How do you welcome children in Jesus' name? What can you do today?

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Who Is the Greatest?

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." Mark 9:35

Puzzle is based on Mark 9:30-37



ACROSS

5. A person or thing of the highest quality or character
6. The one coming after all others
7. A public way for the travel of vehicles, people, and animals
8. Someone who is employed to perform services for others

DOWN

1. A building where people live, especially a family
2. The one coming before all others
3. Small in size
4. A very young person

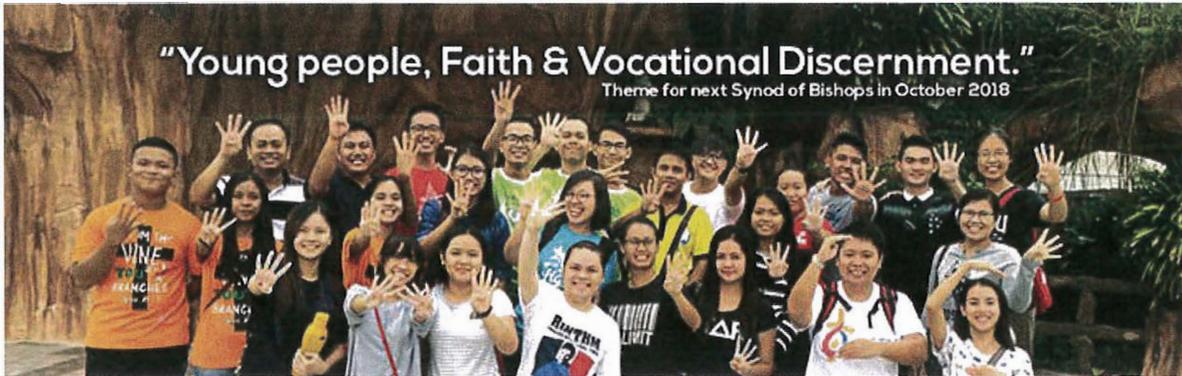
LITTLE	LAST	SERVANT	GREATEST
ROAD	FIRST	CHILD	HOUSE

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Pope Francis has dedicated the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be focused on the theme of "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment." It will be held in Rome in October 2018. Its aim is to accompany the young on their journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society.

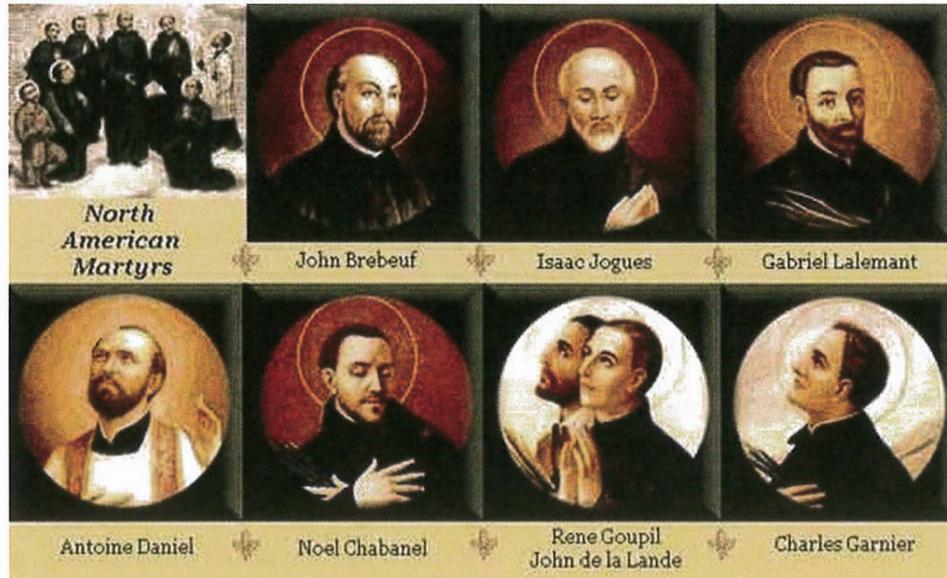
Every participant has been asked to study a Working Document (in Latin, called an *Instrumentum laboris*), which offers countless ideas for reflection and inspires the search for concrete answers. It seeks to help recognize, interpret and choose. It encourages journeying, shedding light on problems and finding ways to solve them. Above all, in a world that no longer helps us to dream, it is an invitation to start wishing for the impossible, to dream great things for and with young people.

The *Instrumentum laboris* (no. 43) reports what young people say in the Document of the Pre-Synodal Meeting: "Sometimes, we end up discarding our dreams. We are too afraid, and some of us have stopped dreaming. This is seen in the many socio-economic pressures that can severely drain the sense of hope among young people. At times, we have not even had the opportunities to keep dreaming". Referring to a passage very dear to Pope Francis taken from the book of Joel, it is stated that "the dreams of the elders and the prophecies of young people only happen together, confirming the goodness of intergenerational alliances". If we, adults and elderly, do not dream, young people will not be able to prophesy!

Pope Francis hopes that this Synod will be an occasion for life and hope for the young, for the Church and for the world. For all young people, so that in a world that is stealing their affections, bonds and prospects for life, they may rediscover the beauty of life starting from a happy relationship with the God of the covenant and of love. For the Church, so that in a moment that is not easy she may reacquire, through a path of authentic discernment in the Spirit, a renewed youthful dynamism. And finally for the whole world, so that all men and women may rediscover themselves as privileged recipients of the good news of the Gospel.

FEASTS THIS WEEK THE JESUIT MARTYRS

ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF, ST. ISAAC JOGUES AND COMPANIONS



The eight North American martyrs, also known as the Canadian Martyrs, the Jesuit Martyrs of North America or the Martyrs of France, included six priests and two lay brothers. They were heroic members of the Society of Jesus who were martyred in North America as they served the Huron, the Iroquois and the Mohawk First Nations people. Five of the eight North American martyrs were put to death in what is now Canada, and three of them in New York State. There is a shrine to the United States' martyrs at Auriesville in New York, and there is a shrine to the Canadian martyrs at Fort Saint Mary near Midland, Ontario. The names of the eight North American martyrs are:

Saint Rene Goupil, a lay brother martyred in 1642 in New York State,
Saint Isaac Jogues, a priest,
Saint John de Lalande, a lay brother, martyred in 1646 in New York State,
Saint Anthony Daniel, a priest, martyred in Canada in 1648,
Saint John de Brebeuf,
Saint Charles Garnier,
Saint Noel Chabanel and
Saint Gabriel Lalemant, all priests, and all martyred in Canada in 1649.

