

LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 3, 2019

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY



Luke 4:14-21

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Today's Gospel is like "Part 2" of last week's Gospel. In last week's Gospel, Jesus gave a description of what he hoped to be about in his public ministry-- bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, setting the oppressed free, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour. And everybody in Jesus' home town of Nazareth was amazed at the wisdom and good sense that flowed from the mouth of this local boy. How quickly things change! Now, the people turn against Jesus and even try to kill him. But he slips away through the crowd.

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- What do you think made people change their opinion of Jesus and turn away from him?
- Have you ever experienced people turning their backs on you? What was it like? How did you respond?
- Have you ever thought about Jesus as one with you when people betray you or turn on you? What does it feel like to think that Jesus knows what you are going through?

The Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.*

Amen.

(prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)

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THE CHURCH TEACHES

The Synod on Young People: What does the Final Document Say?

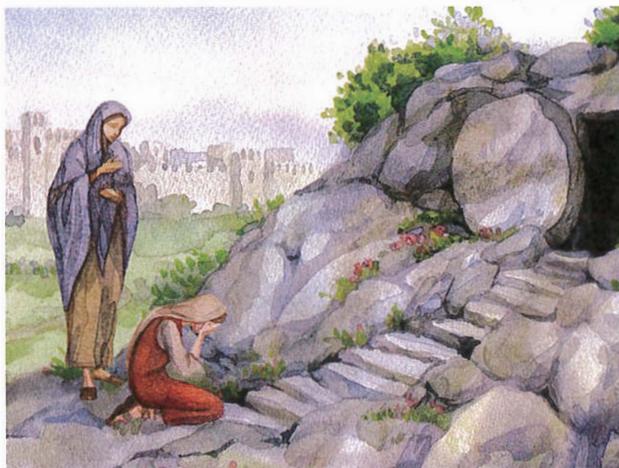
Part Three: "They left without delay"

The icon presented by the Synod Fathers of the young Church is Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the Resurrection. All young people, the Synod Fathers affirm, including those with different visions of life, are in God's heart.

"Walking together" is the synodal dynamic which the Fathers also bring to light in the part three.

They invite the Conferences of Bishops' around the world to continue the process of discernment with the aim of developing specific pastoral solutions. The definition of "synodality" provided is a style for mission that encourages us to move from "I" to "we" and to consider the multiplicity of faces, sensitivities, origins and cultures.

One request repeatedly made in the hall, was that of establishing a "Directory of youth ministry in a vocational key" on the national level, that can help diocesan and parish leaders qualify their training and action "with" and "for" young people, helping to overcome a certain fragmentation of the pastoral care of the Church.



*Young People, the Faith and
Vocational Discernment*

EVENTS THIS WEEK

St. Agatha February 5th



St. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses. She is also considered to be a powerful intercessor when people suffer from fires. Her feast day is celebrated on February 5.

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family.

From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God.

One of the men who desired Agatha, whose was Quintianus. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge.

Agnes died around 251 A.D.



A short video about St. Agatha can be found here: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=14