

LIVING FAITH

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Luke 19:1-10



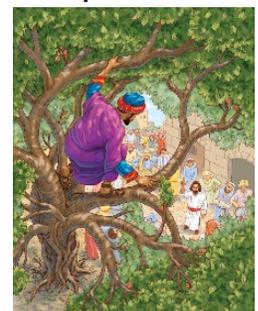
He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

This story is about a man named Zacchaeus, a tax collector who would have been despised by most of the upstanding citizens of Jericho as a cheat and a sinner. But he wanted to see Jesus; the Gospel says, "he was trying to see who Jesus was." So, in one of the most humorous scenes in the Gospels, Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree to get a good view, and instead, Jesus gets a good view of him. And once Zacchaeus meets the loving, merciful gaze of Jesus, his life is changed forever. That's how it is with Jesus. He looks on us with love and mercy, meets us where we are, and accompanies us as we grow to fulness of life. Like Zacchaeus, we have to be open to receiving his invitation to relationship and discipleship.

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- What do you like best about the story of Zacchaeus?
- What do you relate to in this story?
- Has Jesus ever called you?



Zacchaeus Meets Jesus



When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 19:1-10 (NIV).

J L P O S M S I N N E R E C T
 E M W R S O Z F J W H M M A A
 R Z E E M C H I E F O S I I X
 I L Z N A N E Y P C W H T U O
 C O M A E L H L L D C O R R L
 H S Z M C L T E X O D R E B H
 O T O L R C W H H W J T E I G
 Z C S H Y B H P Y N T N C N U
 S W B R O E R A T M G F R D E
 T A P A G U V M E M Z N O R S
 D K V J A S S D A U W D W F T
 Y B X E A K D E O P S S D R P
 C O L L E C T O R Q O N L P P
 T Q X J N E C L I M B O Y T I
 H E G I S E E K C X H E R A W

CLIMB	LOST	SAVE	SEEK	JERICO
CHIEF	WELCOME	HOUSE	WEALTHY	DOWN
TAX	CROWD	TREE	ZACCHAEUS	COLLECTOR
COME	POOR	SINNER	GUEST	SHORT

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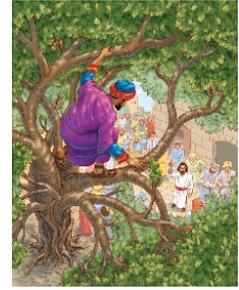
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THE CHURCH TEACHES CONVERSION



“Every true conversion is aimed at a new future, at a new life, a beautiful life, a life free from sin, a generous life... and Jesus opens the door to this new life.” *Pope Francis, April 7, 2019*



“...the word ‘conversion’ assumes a special importance in our present situation. Adequate responses to current problems cannot be superficial. Rather, what is needed is precisely a conversion, a ‘turning around’, that is, a transformation of hearts and minds. Striving to overcome problems such as hunger and food insecurity, persistent social and economic distress, the degradation of ecosystems, and a ‘culture of waste’ calls for a renewed ethical vision, one that places persons at the center, desiring to leave no one on the margins of life,” *Pope Francis, June 8, 2019.*

Jesus calls to conversion. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." In the Church's preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life. *CCC 1427*



Christ's call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This *second conversion* is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church who, "clasping sinners to her bosom, [is] at once holy and always in need of purification, [and] follows constantly the path of penance and renewal." This endeavor of conversion is not just a human work. It is the movement of a "contrite heart," drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of God who loved us first. *CCC 1428*

Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, "sackcloth and ashes," fasting and mortification, but at the *conversion of the heart, interior conversion*. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance. *CCC 1430*



FEASTS THIS WEEK

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO, BISHOP

NOVEMBER 4

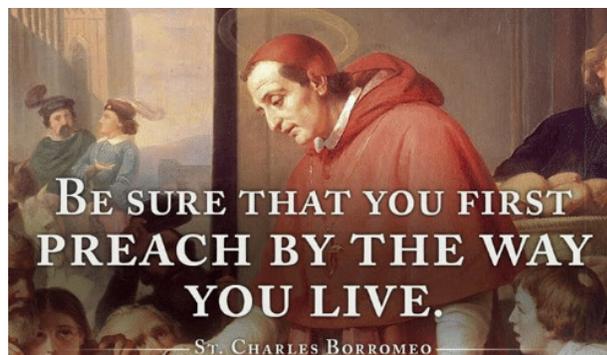
Patron of Bishops, Catechists and Seminarians

Saint Charles Borromeo was born on October 2, 1538 at the castle of Arona on Lake Maggiore near Milan. His father was the Count of Arona and his mother a member of the House of Medici. He was the third of six children born to the couple. The young count suffered from a speech impediment that made him appear slow to those who did not know him. Despite this challenge, he proved to be an excellent student. He earned a doctorate in canon and civil law. When Charles was 21, his uncle was elected Pope and, recognizing Charles' talents, Pope Pius IV invited his nephew to serve at the Vatican. In his new role, he promoted learning and established a literary academy. In 1560, Charles was appointed the administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan, and discerned that he was being called to the priesthood. He became Archbishop of Milan in May 12, 1564.

As a bishop, Charles encouraged learning and modelled exemplary conduct for his priests. Corruption was rampant, and Charles worked diligently to address it and bring reform. He founded schools, and established seminaries and colleges for clergy.

In 1576 a famine struck Milan followed by the plague, and many of the wealthy and powerful fled the city. Archbishop Borromeo remained. He used his own fortune to feed the starving people. When that money was spent, he took loans and went deep into debt. He may have fed 70,000 people per day. Eventually, the Archbishop convinced the local governor to return to his post and care for the people.

Charles Borromeo died on November 3, at the age of 46. He was beatified on May 12, 1602 and canonized on November 1, 1610.



Watch a video about Charles Borromeo [here](#).