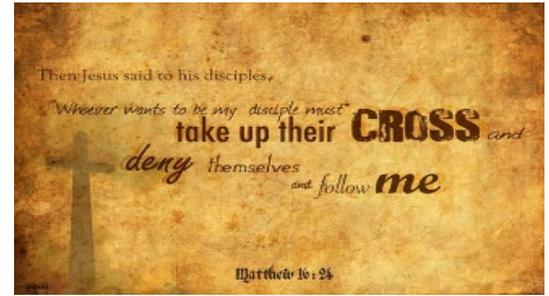


LIVING FAITH

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 30, 2020



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 16: 21-27

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.'

But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

In last week's Gospel, Peter seemed to "Get it." When Jesus asked him, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." But in today's Gospel, when confronted with the truth that Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, was going to suffer terribly and then die, Peter cannot bear it. It's too much for him, and he tries to persuade Jesus that what he has predicted must not be allowed to happen. But Jesus sees a truth that Peter does not immediately grasp. Being Jesus' disciple, living in love and total submission to God's will, almost always involves taking up the cross and suffering with Jesus. Jesus lived his life in love. He gave his life for others. If we are going to follow Jesus, if we are going to be Christians, then we, too have to give up some things in order to gain others. That's called sacrifice. Sacrifice is not a popular word today—it wasn't a popular word in Jesus' day either, as we can see from Peter's response to Jesus' prediction. But love always involves sacrifice. If you love somebody, you sometimes have to give something up, or compromise. If you love Jesus, there are going to be things you have to give up as well.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- What are some things that you might be asked to give up if you love Jesus?
- What are some of the gains? What do you get if you try to live in love as Jesus taught?
- What do you think is the heart of Jesus' message?

THE CHURCH TEACHES

THE DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS (2020)

PUBLISHED BY THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

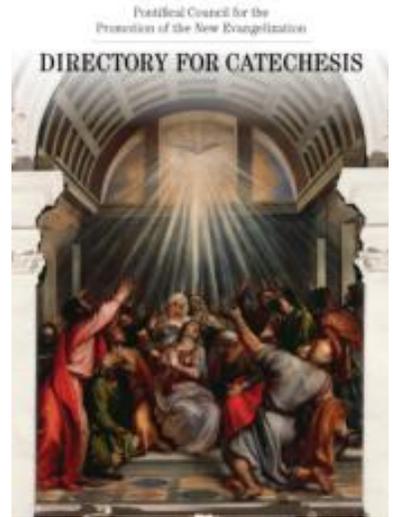
WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF CATECHESIS? WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

THE GOAL...

Paragraph 75 of the new Directory for Catechesis tells us that the goal of catechesis is "... to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

How is this goal to be accomplished? The Directory lists five tasks of catechesis, with the fifth task- making missionary disciples- being the key to the entire process. The tasks of catechesis are:

- Leading to Knowledge of the Faith (paragraphs 79-80)
- Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery (paragraphs 81-82)
- Forming for Life in Christ (paragraphs 83-85)
- Teaching Prayer (paragraphs 86-87)
- Introduction to Community Life (paragraph 88)
 - Developing the sense of belonging to the Church; teaching the sense of ecclesial communion; promoting the acceptance of the Magisterium, communion with pastors, fraternal dialogue; forming believers in the sense of ecclesial co-responsibility, contributing as active participants to building up of the community and as missionary disciples to its growth. (paragraph 89)



FOR YOUR REFLECTION:

When you hear the word "catechesis" what comes to your mind?

What do you think is the goal of catechesis?

How do you think missionary disciples are made?



Where do we look for the sources of catechesis? There are many sources in the vast treasure trove of the Church. The Directory for Catechesis names seven sources in particular:

- The Word of God in Sacred Scripture and in Sacred Tradition (paragraphs 91-92)
- The Magisterium (paragraphs 93-94)
- The Liturgy (paragraphs 95-98)
- The Testimony of the Saints and Martyrs (paragraphs 99-100)
- Theology (paragraph 101)
- Christian Culture (paragraphs 102-105)
- Beauty (paragraphs 106-109)

THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

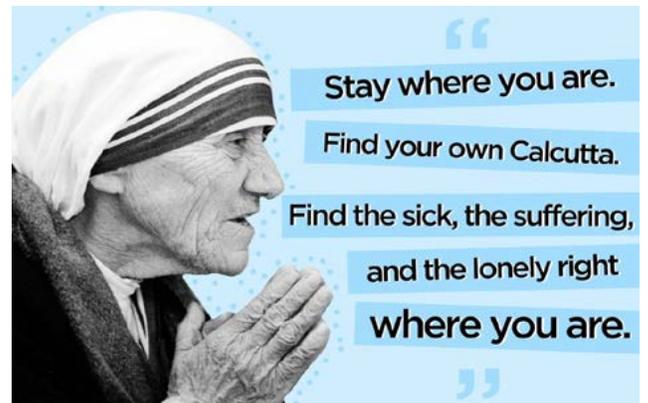
SEPTEMBER 5

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the future Mother Teresa, was born on 26 August 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian heritage. Her father, a well-respected local businessman, died when she was eight years old, leaving her mother, a devoutly religious woman, to open an embroidery and cloth business to support the family. After spending her adolescence deeply involved in parish activities, Agnes left home in September 1928, to join the Loreto Sisters in Dublin, Ireland. She received the name of Teresa, after her patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux.



In 1929, as a young sister, Agnes was sent to India as a teacher. On 10 September 1946, on a train journey from Calcutta to Darjeeling, Mother Teresa received what she termed the "call within a call," which was to give rise to the Missionaries of Charity family of Sisters, Brothers, Fathers, and Co-Workers. On October 7, 1950, the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially erected as a religious institute for the Archdiocese of Calcutta. Their purpose was "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor."

From the late 1960s until 1980, the Missionaries of Charity expanded both in their reach across the globe and in their number of members. Mother Teresa opened houses in Australia, the Middle East, and North America, and the first novitiate outside Calcutta in London. In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. By that same year there were 158 Missionaries of Charity foundations all over the world.



Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997 in Calcutta. She was canonised on 4 September 2016, and the anniversary of her death (5 September) is her feast day.

FOR YOUR REFLECTION...

- What inspires you about Mother Teresa's story?
- Think back to the Gospel for today. How was Mother Teresa asked to sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel?
- What did she give up?
- What do you think she gained?

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:22-28 (NIV)



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 I W O R L D O D W T U I N U C
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GIVE
FIND
SELF
DENY

EXCHANGE
SAVE
SOUL
WORLD

GOOD
CROSS
FOLLOW
FORFEIT

WHOLE
GAIN
LOSE
LIFE