

# LIVING FAITH

## A FAMILY RESOURCE

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 24, 2016



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

## GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

### Jesus begins His Ministry in Galilee

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

### The Rejection of Jesus in Nazareth

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

**'He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.'**



### A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Sometimes, people and organizations write a "Mission Statement" to make clear to themselves and to other people what their purpose is. You could think about the Gospel today as Jesus' Mission Statement, because he chooses to read this quote from the Prophet Isaiah at the very beginning of his public ministry, and it sort of sets the tone for what he wants to do with his life-- bring good news to the poor, free the captives and restore sight to the blind, set the oppressed free, and announce the love and mercy of God. You do these things, too! You continue the mission of Jesus today, wherever you live. You bring Good News when you bring a smile to someone's face. You free captives when you invite an elderly neighbour out for tea. You restore the sight of the blind when you help someone see an issue in a different light. You announce God's love and mercy every time you say "I forgive you." You are Christ for the world!

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES HOW DOES JESUS LOOK AT OUR WORLD?



LUKE 4:14-21

**POWERFUL WORDS...**  
**POWERFUL PERSON...**

### MATERIALS:

- Old magazines with pictures that can be cut up
- Scissors
- Strips of paper
- A pair of glasses
- Pens, pencils or markers

### WHAT TO DO:

- Sit around a table, or in a circle on a floor or a bed
- Each person chooses five pictures that they think show a big problem in our world, one that they think needs to be dealt with somehow
- Each person cuts out the five pictures they have chosen
- Place the pictures in a circle in front of the group
- Talk together about the pictures, and the problems in our world that the pictures point to
- Then, each person names gifts that they have. You can help one another to name the gifts of each person, because sometimes people don't see their own gifts!
- Write one gift on each strip of paper
- Help each other to match your gifts with the problems of the world.
- Place each gift with the problem it could help to address.
- We may not be able to do everything, but we can do something!
- Look together at the picture you've made, showing how your gifts match the needs of the world!





# GOOD NEWS FOR THE POOR

Luke 4: 14-21

## THE CHURCH TEACHES... SOCIAL JUSTICE THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**1934** Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity.

**1935** The equality of people rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it:

Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design.

**1936** On coming into the world, man is not equipped with everything he needs for developing his bodily and spiritual life. He needs others. Differences appear tied to age, physical abilities, intellectual or moral aptitudes, the benefits derived from social commerce, and the distribution of wealth. The "talents" are not distributed equally.

**1937** These differences belong to God's plan, who wills that each receive what he needs from others, and that those endowed with particular "talents" share the benefits with those who need them. These differences encourage and often oblige persons to practice generosity, kindness, and sharing of goods; they foster the mutual enrichment of cultures.

**1938** There exist also *sinful inequalities* that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel:

Their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace.

**“HE SENT ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR”  
ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI AND THE REDEMPTORISTS**



**ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI  
GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR**

**Feast Day: August 1  
Born: 1696 : Died: 1787**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori was born near Naples in Italy. He was a hard working student who became a very famous lawyer.**

**On the day that he lost his first court case, Alphonsus decided to give up law to become a priest. His father tried very hard to stop him, but Alphonsus had made up his mind.**

**Alphonsus was very happy serving God. His life was filled with activity. He preached, wrote many hymns and 111 books. He also played the harpsicord (like a piano) and painted pictures.**

**He had lots of followers who became priests and he started an order called “Redemptorists”.**

**St. Alphonsus was wise and good. He reminded people about God’s love for them and the importance of their religion. His sermons were very simple so everyone could understand what he said.**

**As he got older he became ill and suffered much. He loved Our Blessed Mother and prayed for her help. When he was 91 years old, he died peacefully. He was made a saint of the Church in 1839.**

**The Redemptorists**

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) is a missionary congregation of men founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732. They were founded to proclaim the Good News to the most abandoned, particularly the poor. He started with nine companions in the hills above Scala, in rural Italy, working with goatherds and shepherds. Today there are about 5,000 priests, brothers and students serving on six continents in 82 countries. Associated with them are Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer and many other Partners in Mission.

Redemptorists are best known as preachers. They preach parish missions, retreats and renewals. Their focus is on proclaiming God’s love and plentiful redemption. St. Alphonsus was known as “the Apostle of Prayer,” and Redemptorists teach people to pray. A major work of the Redemptorists is promoting devotion to Mary under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

In Canada, Redemptorists serve in parishes from St. John’s to Vancouver, in medical ethics and in mission preaching. They also work in media, in youth ministry and other fields. Redemptorists minister in the shrines of : Ste-Anne-de-Beaupre in Quebec, Blessed Vasyil Velichkowski in Winnipeg and Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Toronto

In Newfoundland, Redemptorists live and work in St. Teresa’s Parish, St. John’s.

