

LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 28, 2024

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY--Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

They were astounded at his teaching,

for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,

and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.'

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'

And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions

and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another,

'What is this? A new teaching—with authority!

He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'

At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Having called his first disciples, Jesus begins to carry out his mission in his home territory of Galilee. In Mark's Gospel the first teaching and the first miracle take place in the synagogue in Capernaum. Mark presents Jesus as the "prophet like Moses" whom God had long promised to send to Israel.

In the Bible, a "prophet" is not one who foretells the future. Rather, prophets are people who speak God's word to us in particular situations. Prophets are not nearly so interested in the future as they are in the present; they clarify current situations in the light of God's word and God's plan for us. The task of a prophet is to highlight God's presence and action in current events and help us to see things from God's point of view. Out of a personal relationship with God a prophet receives a deep insight into the divine reality as well as the human condition and the state of the world. Then in both words and action prophets threaten, promise, accuse and exhort – all in the name of God and in the hope of awakening people to God and God's way, with a view to making the world and our lives better.

Throughout the ages God continues to raise up prophets.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Name some current or recent prophets in the church or in the world. Take them one at a time and talk about why you see them as prophets.
- Talk about ways that you feel challenged by prophetic voices.
- What are your prophetic gifts?

Who's In Control?

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." Mark 1:27

Based on Mark 1:21-28



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

REGION	SPREAD	JESUS	PEOPLE	NEWS
SHRIEK	SYNAGOGUE	SHOOK	DESTROY	AMAZED
QUIET	HOLY	GALILEE	ORDERS	SABBATH
AUTHORITY	OBEY	EVIL	TEACH	SPIRIT

Copyright © Sermons 4 Kids, Inc. • All Rights Reserved • www.sermons4kids.com

Subscribe to our weekly Catechetical resource. E-mail: Familycatechesis@rcsj.org



THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD AND WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Initiated in 1997 by Saint John Paul II, the World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated annually on February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. St. John Paul gave as the purpose of this World Day: “to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practise of the evangelical counsels” as well as “to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervour which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord.”

We are grateful to these consecrated men and women of our Archdiocese who live out their baptismal vocation by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in a religious congregation, a secular institute or through private vows. The World Day for Consecrated Life is a wonderful opportunity for us to show our gratitude to them by praying for God’s continued blessing upon them and by praying that many others will hear and respond to the call to Consecrated Life.



"This then is the consecrated life: praise which gives joy to God’s people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. Consecrated life is not about survival, it is not about preparing ourselves for *ars bene moriendi*: this is the temptation of our days, in the face of declining vocations. No, it is not about survival, but new life. “But... there are only a few of us...” – it’s about new life. It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus" -- Pope Francis, World Day for Consecrated Life Homily, February 2, 2019

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 ST BLAISE

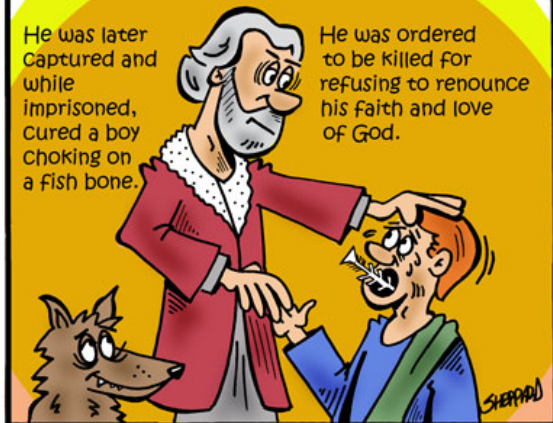
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

Raised as a Christian in a rich family, he became a bishop. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee. To avoid persecution, he lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them.

He was later captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy choking on a fish bone.

He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God.



St. Blaise



The Presentation at the Temple
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Prayer for Consecrated Persons

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



SECRETARIAT OF
CLERGY, CONSECRATED LIFE AND VOCATIONS
www.ForYourVocation.org • www.sccclb.org

© 2011, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All Rights Reserved. Image © SuperStock. Used with permission.



THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY LOOKING AT THE SYNTHESIS REPORT

PART I – THE FACE OF THE SYNODAL CHURCH

3. Entering the Community of Faith: Christian Initiation

Christian initiation is the **journey** by which the Lord, through the ministry of the Church, introduces us to Easter faith and inserts us into **Trinitarian** and **ecclesial communion** [...] the **catechumenal journey**, with the gradualness of its stages and steps, is the paradigm in respect to every **ecclesial experience** of **walking together**.



Christian initiation

This **journey** takes a variety of forms depending on the age at which it is undertaken and differing emphases characteristic of Eastern and Western traditions. However, **listening to the Word** and **conversion of life**, **liturgical celebration** and insertion into the **community** and its **mission** are always intertwined



Responsibility & mission

Before any distinction of **charisms** and **ministries**, "we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body" (1Cor. 12:13). Therefore, among all the baptised, there is a genuine **equality of dignity** and a **common responsibility** for **mission**, according to the **vocation** of each.



Sensus Fidei

All believers possess an instinct for the truth of the Gospel, the **sensus fidei**. This consists in a certain **connaturality with divine realities** and the aptitude to grasp what conforms to the truth of faith intuitively. Synodal processes enhance this **gift**, allowing the existence of that consensus of the faithful (**consensus fidelium**).



Confirmation

The grace of **Pentecost** abides in the Church through **confirmation**. It enriches the faithful with the abundance of the **gifts of the Spirit**. It calls them to develop their **specific vocation**, rooted in their **common baptismal dignity**, in the service of **mission**.



Eucharist & Koinonia

By calling us to participate in his **Body and Blood**, **the Lord** forms us into one body, with one another and with the Lord. Beginning with Paul's use of the term **koinonia** (cf. 1 Cor. 10:16-17), the Christian tradition has treasured the word "**communion**" to indicate at the same time **full participation** in the **Eucharist**, and, the **nature of relationships** among the faithful and among the churches.