

LIVING FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- John 2: 13-25

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then they said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body.

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about human nature, for he himself knew what was within the human person.



REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Only John places the cleansing of the temple at the beginning (rather than the end) of Jesus' public ministry. In John's view, Jesus, from the start, sets out to challenge the authority of the temple and its clergy with his own authority. By driving out the money changers as well as the animals and the people selling them, Jesus is criticizing and condemning the whole temple system. The key words Jesus speaks are, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." When the people misunderstand what Jesus means, John clarifies for his readers that "Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body."

Even the disciples did not understand, until after Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead. They needed time and experience to begin to comprehend that Jesus was talking about the body of Christ. Centuries later, we hear "body of Christ" and we know it means the presence of Jesus in the consecrated host AND it also means the Church, the People of God – ourselves. Baptized, we are part of the body of Christ. Receiving the body of Christ in communion, we become what we receive; we become the Body of Christ, the People of God, the Church.

Through history, in different times and ways, the Church has become more like the "temple system" that Jesus challenged. Our church is always in need of renewal and reform. We ourselves are always in need of renewal reform. That's why we have Lent – a time to take very seriously the call to be more like Christ and to love more like God loves.



TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Tell about a time when you did not understand something until much later.
- For you, what does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ, the Church?
- How are you becoming more like Christ and loving more like God loves during this Lent?

Cleaning House

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



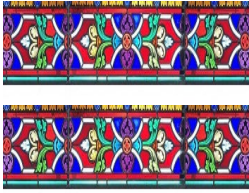
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DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS

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THE CHURCH TEACHES

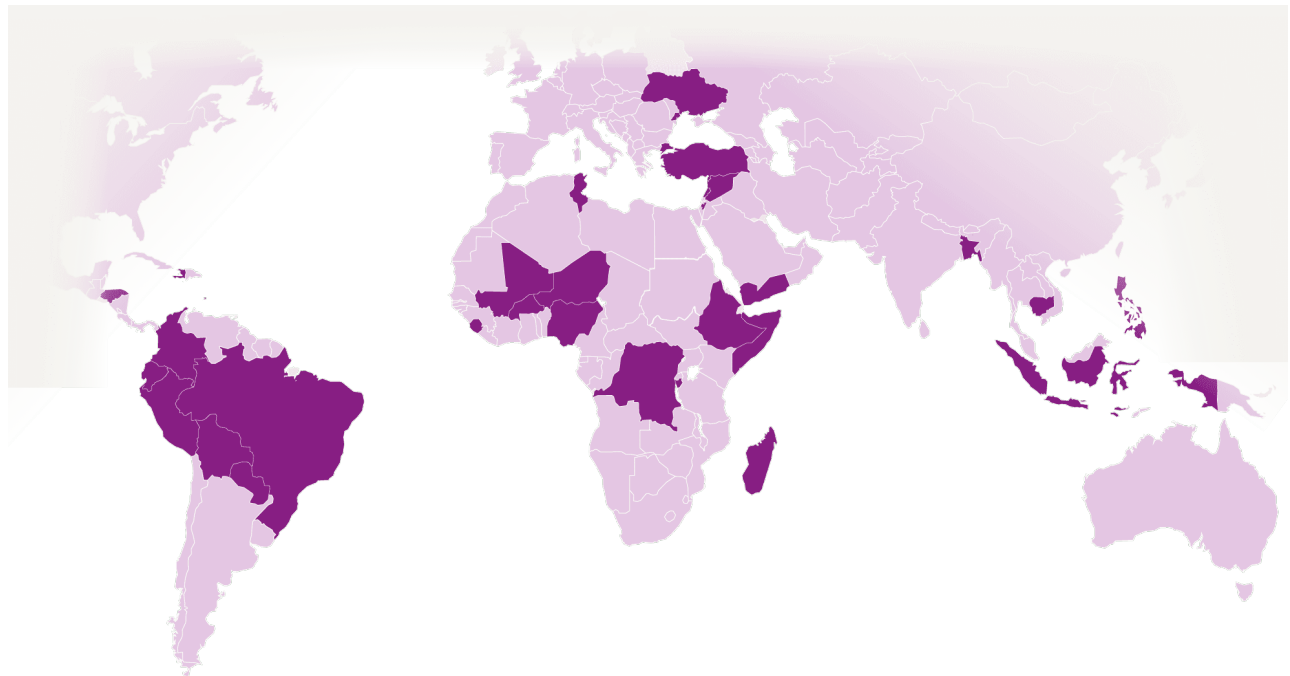


THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

WHERE WE WORK

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada believes in the dignity of every person and supports communities so that they can be the architects of their own development.

We work in partnership with almost 100 local organizations that empower communities in over 34 countries around the world to defend their rights, act for peace and take charge of their own development.



Discern and donate at devp.org/lent.

PRAYING TOGETHER

For peacemakers around the world who promote social justice, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, let us pray to the Lord...

For humanitarian workers around the world who bring hope and comfort to people affected by natural and man-made disasters as well as the current pandemic, let us pray to the Lord...

For protectors of the Earth around the world who care for species and preserve the biodiversity of the Earth, our common home, let us pray to the Lord...

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY CONTINUING TO EXPLORE THE SYNTHESIS REPORT LOOKING AT CHAPTER 6

Chapter 6 of the Synthesis Report reminds us that the “plurality of tradition in our local realities is a wealth that must be preserved against any form of homologation and at the same time shows the possibility of unity in diversity”. Let’s pray with Pope Francis so that we understand “the gift of different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church.”



SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI

For a Synodal Church:
communion | participation | mission

There is no need to fear the diversity of charisms in the Church. Rather, living this diversity should make us rejoice!

Francisco
The Pope video - January 2024

#thepopevideo
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If we are guided by the Holy Spirit, abundance, variety, **diversity, never cause conflict**. The Holy Spirit reminds us first and foremost that we are children loved by God – **everyone equal in God’s love, and everyone different.**

Francisco
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Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church.

Francisco
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