

CALLED TO TRUST

— God is always already at work —



God is bigger than this crisis. Than any crisis. He is already working in the world, in and around us. We are called to do his work, but we can trust in the fact that He is there with us, every step of the way. We can take comfort in the fact that God is always already at work, before us.

Our actions have a ripple effect. They *do* contribute to change. Let us be prophets of hope and light in the world. There is no doubt that, sometimes, being a Christian is hard. We are called to make choices and sacrifices so that we do not live to serve ourselves, but to serve God and others. On the cross, 'Jesus didn't suffer so that we wouldn't have to, but so that we would know how to' - *Jason Evert, Catholic Author.*

This unit seeks to allow time for faith sharing and for expression of our own beliefs, as Christians and as young people, in the writing of our own creed.



Saint Augustine of Hippo: "The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself."

Reflections

For a short reflection:

St John, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." (1 John 4.18).

What do you think St John means by this?

For a longer reflection:

A reflection shared at the funeral of St Oscar Romeo:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.

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No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.

**Do you agree that 'we cannot do everything, and there is a
sense of liberation in realising that'?**

**Do you have an idea of what you are passionate about? Any
social justice issues that you want to get involved in?**

**How do you feel about the reality that 'we may never see the
end results'?**

Scripture for faith Sharing

Proverbs 3 – Wisdom bestows well-being

Matthew 17:14-20 - nothing is impossible if you have faith

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Activity

Write your group creed

A group of young Catholics met regularly online during lockdown to share, learn and pray. They then wrote their own creed, to bring together their thoughts, feelings, and beliefs:

We believe...

...In young people and our responsibility in standing for justice and making change

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*...In a church that is outward looking inspired by a faith that calls us to action
...In the value of creation and the need to protect it
...Leaders need to understand their own people and seek to care for the most vulnerable
...In the beauty of diversity, the value of inclusivity and the need to foster it
...In the power of collective community, listening and learning from one another
...All of this is underpinned by our belief and trust in our creator God.*

Challenge your group write their own creed to cement their learning. Perhaps this could be shared with the wider community – young people need to be celebrated!

Prayer

Pope Francis: Laudato Si'

IX. BEYOND THE SUN

243. At the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), and be able to read with admiration and happiness the mystery of the universe, which with us will share in unending plenitude. Even now we are journeying towards the sabbath of eternity, the new Jerusalem, towards our common home in heaven. Jesus says: "I make all things new" (Rev 21:5). Eternal life will be a shared experience of awe, in which each creature, resplendently transfigured, will take its rightful place and have something to give those poor men and women who will have been liberated once and for all.

244. In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for "if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator".^[172] **Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.**

245. God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!

Thomas Merton Prayer:

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.