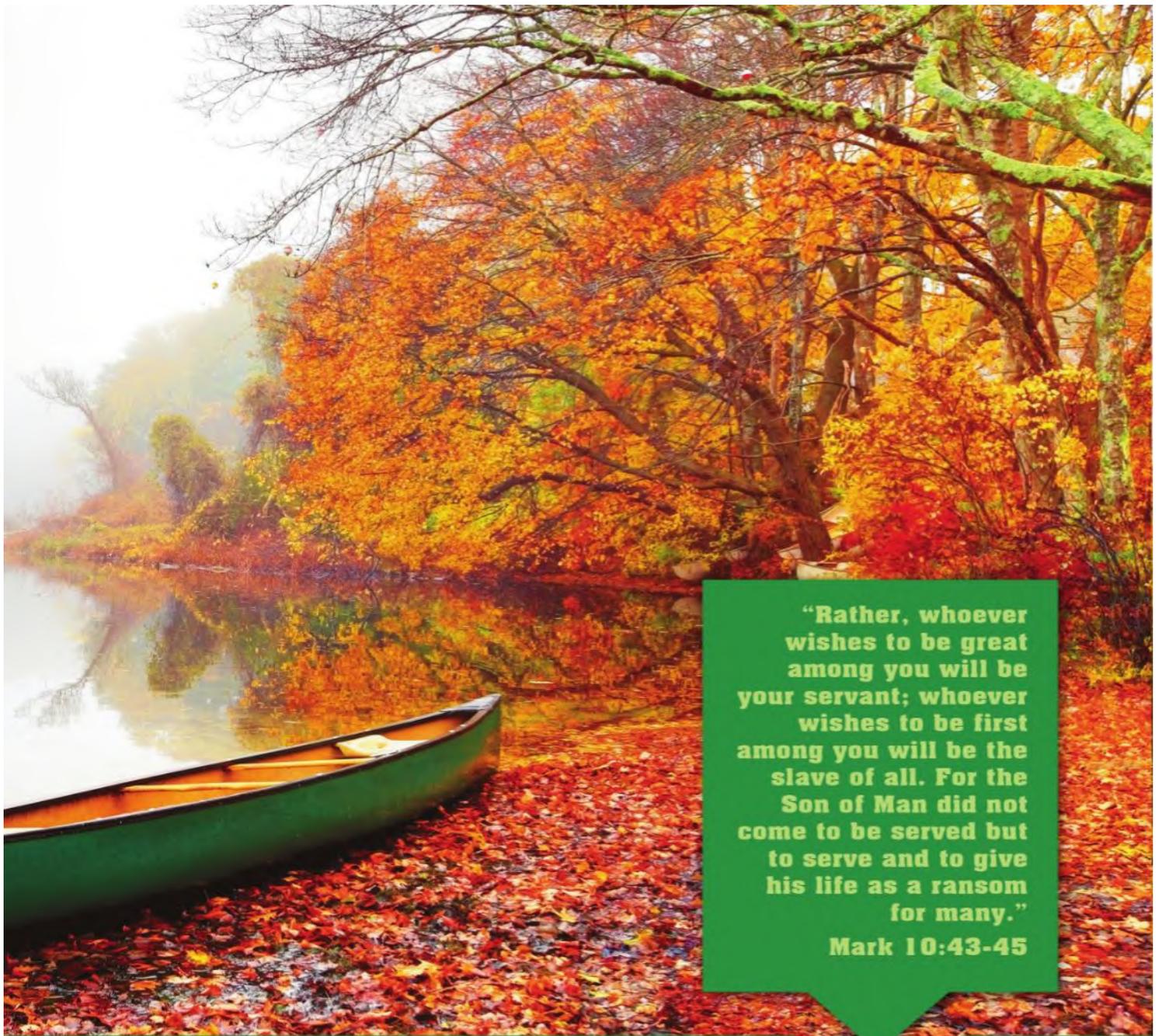


# St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street • Saginaw, MI 48603  
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**“Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**  
**Mark 10:43-45**

## Mission Statement

We, the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Community, united by our love for God and one another, are called to evangelize through worship, service, life-long learning, promoting God’s truth, peace and justice, and respecting all creation.

**29**  
**ORDINARY**  
**TIME**

# Father Rick's Reflections . . .



It appears that only James and John are the arrogant ones in the gospel of Mark. But, maybe our criticism of these two disciples who, with Peter, comprise the most intimate core of the Twelve, needs to be modified if we are honest with ourselves. How often do we approach Jesus with self-centered demands about our own plans rather than with deep faith in *his* plans for us?

It seems that James and John have not heard one word of what Jesus has told them about the suffering and death that await him in Jerusalem. All they are concerned about is what Jesus can make happen for them when he comes into his "*glory*." What they want, they tell him, are the two best places next to him, on his right and on his left. Maybe it is the deep sorrow of Jesus at their obtuseness in their request that tempers his response to them. He answers with the images of "*cup*" and "*baptism*." In the Old Testament, the cup was a rich and ambivalent symbol. It could refer not only to overflowing joy and communion with God and God's salvation, but also to the draining of the painful cup of punishment.

In his passion, Jesus will gulp down the sins of the world, drain the cup of suffering and wrath so that it may be refilled with the joy of salvation. Can the brothers drink this same cup? The baptism of which Jesus speaks is his total submersion in the flood of suffering and death. Can James and John go with him into these depths of his passion? Before we pass judgment on them, we need to ask ourselves if we accept the consequences of our sacramental baptism – a baptism into Christ's death so that we may rise with him in newness of life. In the mention of the cup, do Christian communities hear and obey that echo of Eucharist that also initiates us into participation

into the self-giving of Jesus and a sharing in his thirst for justice? The paradox of Jesus' Good News must be always repeated – there can be no glory without a share in his suffering.

The failure of his disciples to understand him, his mission, or his relationship with the Father are all aspects of Jesus' suffering. Their desertion on the eve of his passion would add to the bitterness of the cup he would drink, would be another flood of pain sweeping over him. Power and triumphalism, the desire for first places in the kingdom, have nothing to do with Christian leadership, yet into the hands of these frail and failing human beings Jesus entrusts the Christian community that would, in the power of his love and forgiveness, struggle through to resurrection with him. This is also our challenge and our consolation.

The other ten disciples, who were so glum and dumb when confronted by Jesus' earlier prediction of his passion, regain their voices to argue and bicker among themselves, angry over James and John's approach to Jesus. We might suspect that this reaction is not so much because of the inappropriateness of the brother's approach but because these two had beaten the other ten to it. Knowing that earthly ambition (transferred to heaven!) and competitiveness were what the disciples had in their sights, Jesus calls them together to try to teach them again what is to be the foundation of their identity – the service of others that reflects the self-sacrificing service of Jesus. Kingdom greatness is the gift for those who make no claim to power and status. The demand of James and John needs to be transformed for and by all disciples into this – "*Teacher, we want to do for you and for many whatever you ask of us.*" Are we up to this challenge?

This weekend, we are welcoming the Abufarha family bringing olive wood carvings and gifts from the Holy Land. In the midst of the pandemic, the Christians in the Holy Land have greatly suffered. This is an opportunity for us to assist them as they long to be set free from the pandemic and other things that hold and restrict them. Thank you for supporting them.

On Monday, October 18, at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral, the diocese is celebrating the jubilees of many priests from the past two years. This is a celebration open to everyone to come and acknowledge their many years of service. Those who are being honored are:

## † 65 Years

Rev. Raymond B. Moeggenberg

Ordained June 2, 1956

Rev. Stanley Surman

Ordained June 26, 1956

\*Rev. Harold R. Sikorski

Ordained July 1, 1956, whose memory we celebrated last Friday at his funeral.

## † 60 Years

Rev. Richard E. Jozwiak

Ordained December 20, 1959

Rev. Donald J. Eppenbrock

Ordained June 4, 1960

Rev. Joseph K. Miller

Ordained June 4, 1960

Rev. Ronald K. (R.K.) LeFleur

Ordained June 3, 1961

## † 50 Years

Rev. Robert J. Meissner

Ordained December 19, 1969

Rev. James M. Fitzpatrick

Ordained February 13, 1971

Msgr. Francis B. Koper

Ordained May 22, 1971

## † 40 Years

Rev. David L. Parsch

Ordained January 18, 1980

Rev. John S. Mancini, OSFS

Ordained May 24, 1980

Rev. John F. Cotter

Ordained July 18, 1980

Rev. James Wm. Bessert

Ordained September 27, 1980

Please keep these men in your prayers.

I'm not sure if we are still in summer or fall with the way the weather has been fluctuating over the past week. We have had an awful lot of rain and with that, seen some of the crops in danger in the fields. Let us pray for good weather for the harvest this fall. Have a blessed week.

*F. Rick*

## In Our Parish

**Tuesday, October 19**

8:30 AM Mass

**Wednesday, October 20**

8:30 AM Mass

**Thursday, October 21**

8:30 AM Mass w/ NCCE

**Saturday, October 23**

9:00 AM

Individual Rite of Penance

4:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, October 24**

8:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

### **Private Prayer Time**

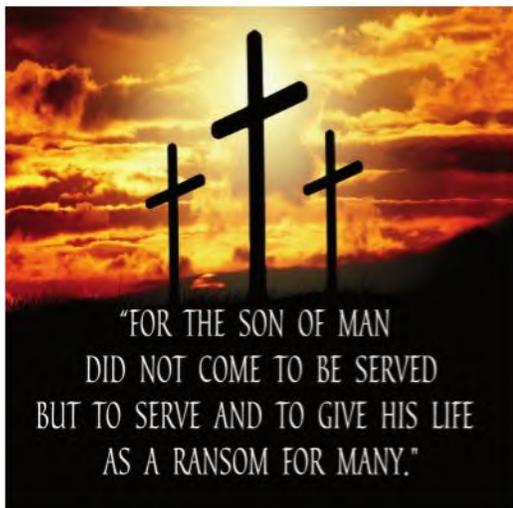
The church is opened Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM for private visits.

## Individual Rite of Penance

**9:00 AM**

Second and Fourth Saturdays  
of the month

**October 23**



## Scripture Readings

### **Readings for the Week of October 17, 2021**

**Sunday**

**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Heb 4:14-16;  
Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

**Monday**

**Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist**

2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18;  
Lk 10:1-9

**Tuesday**

**Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues,  
Priests, and Companions, Martyrs**

Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21;  
Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

**Wednesday**

**Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest**

Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Lk 12:39-48

**Thursday**

Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 12:49-53

**Friday**

**Saint John Paul II, Pope**

Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94;  
Lk 12:54-59

**Saturday**

**Saint John of Capistrano, Priest**

Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 13:1-9

**Sunday**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Heb 5:1-6;  
Mk 10:46-52

May God continue to bless **Jay & Becky Tillman** as they celebrate 40 years of faith filled marriage.

Jay and Becky were married October 16, 1981 at Gesu Church in Toledo, Ohio.



# Prayers



*Please pray for all who have been commended to our prayer that they will respond to God's healing will, especially:*

Aaron  
Dennis  
Larry S.  
Jim & Pat D.  
Ethan  
Jack  
Erin  
T.C.  
M.H.  
Chris Radke  
Tyler Martin K.  
John W.  
Valarie C.  
Allan B.  
Gary H.  
Rick K.  
Jason M.  
Harold G.  
Pat W.  
Al V.  
Jake R.  
Carol Kirkconnell  
Helen M.  
Ian  
Monica  
Sue C.

*And those who are homebound and in assisted/nursing facilities.*

*We are happy to list names of those who request prayers for one month. The list will be purged again on October 29. Please remember to contact the office 799-2460 ext. 1 when a loved one's name no longer needs inclusion on the prayer list.*

## Special News

### **World Mission Sunday • October 24, 2021**

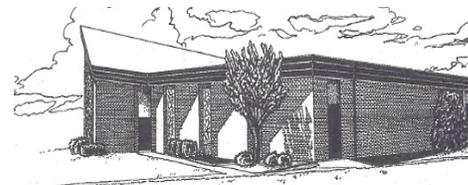
NEXT WEEKEND we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



## In and Around Our Parish

### **Parish Office Closed • Thursday, October 21**

The parish Office will be closed on Thursday, October 21 for the day. Please schedule any business accordingly.



### **Parent Baptism Preparation Class**

The next preparation class will be **Monday, November 22 at 7:00 PM**. Please contact the Parish Office to register at 989-799-2460 ext. 4. Parents are required to attend the preparation session and should be registered St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners attending Mass regularly.

### **Children's Bulletins**

Pick one up to share the Gospel with your children. Puzzles and games each week for ages 3-6 and 7-12. Bulletins are available in the narthex.

### **Bible Study & Sharing • Wednesdays 10:00 AM**

All are Welcome...Come as you can...Join us in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Bible Study & Sharing is an informal morning reviewing the scriptures for Sunday. Coffee and tea are always on. Invite your family and friends.

### **Food Program Outreach • Brown Bag Bunch • October 23 & 24**

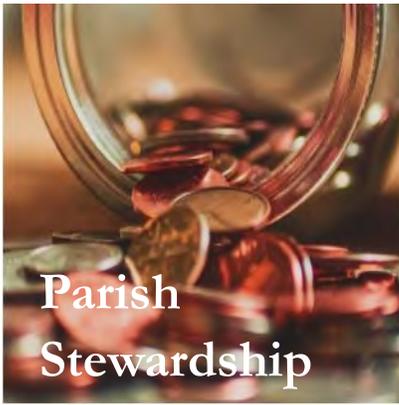
Please take time to help the Brown Bag Bunch with any of the following needed items: juice drink boxes/bags, packaged cookies, peanut butter, lunchmeat, sandwich and snack size zip-top bags, snacks, pretzels, individually wrapped snack cakes, **strawberry and grape jelly/jam**; and **mayonnaise**. Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Please drop in the collection marked 'Brown Bag'.

### **Faith Formation at St. Dominic Parish • Come join us!**

Classes have just begun and there is room available for your child on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. If you have not registered your child for Elementary Faith Formation, please do so now. Contact Chris Platko, DRE at St. Dominic Parish 989-799-2334 ext. 12

## Welcome Visitors & Friends

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or have visited before, We Welcome You! If you are looking for a church home in this community, we invite you to consider St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Contact the Parish Office for more information on becoming a



Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Does my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving to God what belongs to God?

**October 9 & 10, 2021**

Envelopes.....	\$13,562.00
Loose.....	\$846.00
Electronic (ACH) .....	\$563.00
World Mission Sunday	\$170.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$15,141.00</b>

*Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.*

## Sponsor of the Week

**Jim Redmond's Service - State St.**

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### St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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**Welcome to Our Parish**

If you are a visitor to St. Thomas Aquinas, we want you to know how welcome you are. If you wish to become a member of our parish, please call the parish office.

**Parishioner Info:** If you are moving, changing phone numbers or need to update family status, kindly notify the parish office.

**Parish Staff**

**Pastor** .....Fr. Richard Bokinskie  
[rickb@stasaginaw.org](mailto:rickb@stasaginaw.org)

**Parochial Vicar** ..... Fr. Kevin Wojciechowski  
[kevinw@stasaginaw.org](mailto:kevinw@stasaginaw.org)

**Pastoral Associate** .... Sr. Ann deGuise, OSF  
[annd@stasaginaw.org](mailto:annd@stasaginaw.org)

**Parish Secretary** ..... Dawn Drago  
[dawnd@stasaginaw.org](mailto:dawnd@stasaginaw.org)

**Bookkeeper**.....Pat Messing  
[patm@stasaginaw.org](mailto:patm@stasaginaw.org)

**Director of Music** ..... Deborah Kraklow  
[debk@stasaginaw.org](mailto:debk@stasaginaw.org)

**Baptism & Funeral Coordinator & RCIA Director** .....Karen Bartels  
[starcia@stasaginaw.org](mailto:starcia@stasaginaw.org)

**Eucharistic Liturgies**

Saturday .....4:00 PM  
Sunday.....8:30 & 11:00AM  
(June • July • August)  
Tuesday - Thursday .....8:30 AM  
First Friday.....8:30 AM  
(In the event of a funeral on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or First Friday, morning Mass will be cancelled.)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

2nd & 4th Saturday ..... 9:00-10:00 AM  
(Or by Appointment)

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)**

Anyone seeking information about the Catholic Faith should contact the parish office for more information. Sessions meet from September through Spring.

**Baptisms**

Baptisms will be scheduled after the required Baptism Preparation Class. Parents are required to be practicing Catholics and attending Mass regularly. Call the parish office to register.

**Marriage**

Individuals must be registered in the parish at least six months before scheduling a wedding. A wedding date can only be set after meeting with the parish priest.

**Care of the Sick • Pastoral Visits**

Please notify the parish office when seriously ill at home, in the hospital or a nursing/assisted facility. Also, If you or a loved one has had a hospital stay and are recovering at a rehab facility or moving into an assisted living facility and wish a pastoral visit.



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# Readings for the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **First Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11**

Today's passage contains the message of a prophet who spoke to the Jewish people during their exile in Babylon. In four different places, this prophet speaks about a Servant of God who will one day deliver God's people and make them great again. Because the Servant is frequently portrayed as suffering, Christians have applied this to Jesus. Today's passage is a small portion from the last and longest of these four sections. (We read the entire passage on Good Friday.)

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16**

The Jewish high priest was responsible for entering the holiest place in the Jerusalem temple to make sin offerings on behalf of the people. In several places, the letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus is superior to any high priest because he has entered the *heavenly* temple. Our confident access to God's "Throne of Grace" is made possible by his priestly work.

## **Gospel Reflection: Mark 10:35-45**

James and John make their bold request of Jesus to sit at his right hand in his coming kingdom. Jesus tells them that greatness begins with giving oneself in service to others. Jesus' admonition is almost pleading: If you really understand me and what I am about, if you really want to be my disciple, if you really seek to be worthy of my name, then you must see the world differently and respond to its challenges with a very different set of values.



**For your reflection:** When, in my life, (*if ever*) was it difficult to heed Jesus' words, "It cannot be that way with you?"

## **Family Perspective-by Bud Ozar**

"Advice" books abound on marriage and parenting. Jesus tells us in today's gospel the real secret: satisfying relationships depend on how well we sacrifice our needs to serve others. It is not about "getting," it's about "giving" ourselves. If you feel like you are a servant to your children and spouse, then you are doing it right.

## **Stewardship Reflections**

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
Mark 10:45

If you held a mirror up to your life, would it reflect God's love and mercy? If you are struggling with this, try changing your attitude from "I want more" to "thank you God for everything you have given me, I have enough to share." This change in perspective will bring you joy through service to others. Pray daily to become less self-centered and to become more God-centered.



October 17, 2021

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 53:10-11 | Heb 4:14-16 | Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

What do we do best? Some of us might be math whizzes, others can send a golf ball exactly where we intend. How do we get there? Practice, natural talent, and a good coach or teacher. Following Jesus, though, is another matter entirely. As today's readings remind us, we grow as Christians not by building ourselves up but by giving ourselves away. In Isaiah, we hear about the suffering servant who "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." That suffering servant is Jesus, who admonishes the Apostles as they jostle for position as his right-hand man. Ultimately, the greatest among them will be "a slave of all," Jesus reminds them. His words challenge us to put as much energy and prayer into finding ways to better serve others as we do other areas of our lives. We can look to Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, and all the saints as role models.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I bet most of us can think of a friend who seems like a natural "giver." He shovels the neighbor's walk without being asked. She sends flowers or a meal during a difficult time. Serving others can take so many forms, from a simple hug or phone call to volunteering at a soup kitchen. In today's readings, Jesus invites us to bear witness to his sacrifice through humble service. It may not come naturally for all of us all the time, but that's where God's grace and the Holy Spirit come in. We can ask for the strength, creativity, flexibility - whatever we may lack - to recognize the needs around us and respond. Before we know it, our generosity will overflow and encourage others as they, too, seek to grow in Christian service.

**ACTION** Watching the news or even scrolling through your social-media feed can be overwhelming at times. Instead of tuning out, find a small way to help - through prayer, a donation to a Catholic organization, or a phone call or card to a friend going through a difficult time.



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