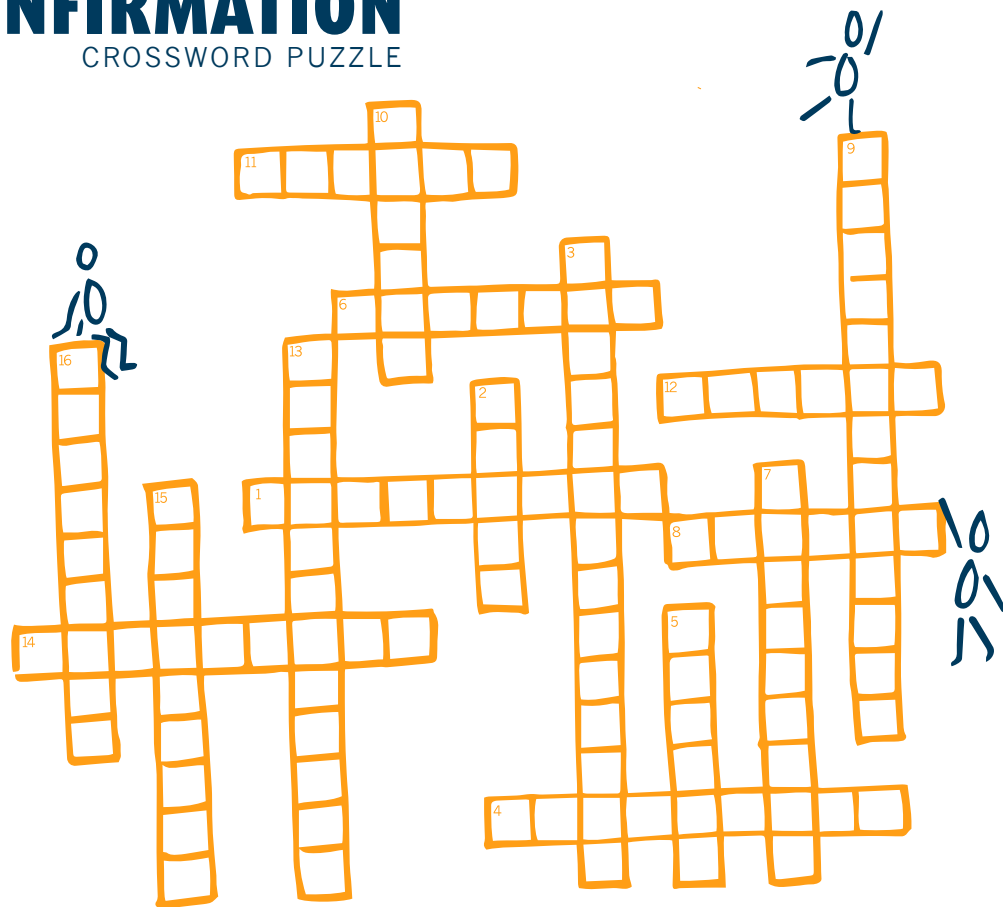


CONFIRMATION

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Helps you to grasp God's greatness and your dependence on him
- The ability to see things from a supernatural viewpoint—in particular, to know what God is asking of you
- The right judgment, which allows you to see what is right and what is wrong, and the prudence to act accordingly
- To trace the Sign of the Cross with holy oil on the forehead
- Our lives change when our _____ change.
- During the Confirmation ceremony, the bishop will trace the sign of the cross on each candidate's forehead, anointing them with this holy oil.
- An encounter with Jesus Christ

DOWN

- Loyalty to God that manifests as a generous love and affectionate obedience
- A sacrament in which God unburdens you of your sins and gives you a fresh start
- The short talk given by a priest during Mass after the Gospel reading
- The courage and strength of will to do what you know you should do, even if it means personal loss or suffering
- Allows you to look beyond the shallowness of the world and see the lasting truth in every situation
- The ability to discern what is true, right, and lasting
- A prayer to God on behalf of someone else
- Confirmation is a great opportunity to start taking your _____ self seriously.
- Someone preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation



SESSION ELEVEN

Made for

MISSION

Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

— St. Ignatius —



11. MADE FOR MISSION

I got a new iPhone the other day and on the back it says, “Designed by Apple.” The phone came with an instruction manual. The sensible thing to do would be to study the instruction manual so that I will know exactly how the device works. But because I have a rough sense of how it works, I just start using it. Over time I will learn more and more features, but unless I study that instruction manual I will never use it exactly as it was intended . . . and I will miss out on many features that I don’t even know exist.

Sometimes we forget that as human beings we have been masterfully designed by God. Sure, you can fumble your way through life and you will learn many of the features of the human being. But if you really want to understand exactly what God had in mind when he created you, if you really want to understand what you were designed for, you need to study the instruction manual.

God has given us his moral law, his son Jesus, the Bible, the Ten Commandments, the teachings of the Church, and the Sacraments all to help us understand that we have been masterfully designed for a purpose. And every Sunday God holds a seminar at your parish to explain features that you didn’t even know you had—it’s called the Mass.

Designed by God. You don’t have a sticker on you that says it, but it’s true. Nobody knows what an iPhone is capable of like Apple does. And nobody knows what you are capable of like God does.

If you use an iPhone in ways it was not intended for, it will most likely break down and stop working. In the same way, if you live in ways counter to what God designed you for, over time you will break down.

Everything has its purpose. Use things for what they were intended, and all will be well. Start using things for something they were not intended, and they will break down.

You have been designed by God with a purpose. Ignore how he has designed you and you will be inviting every type of misery into your life. Embrace how God has designed you and you will experience unimaginable joy, even when things don’t go your way.

Part of God’s design is mission. You have been designed for mission, created for mission. You have been placed on this earth at this time to fulfill a specific mission. If you don’t embrace and fulfill your mission, it will be left undone. Nobody else has been assigned that mission. Just you.

You were made for mission.

YOU WERE MADE FOR MISSION.

You have a unique blend of talents and abilities that are perfectly suited to carry out whatever mission God has assigned to you on this earth.

11.1 THE WORLD IS A MESS

The world is incredible in many ways. But in lots of other ways, it is a mess, and the mess causes a lot of suffering for a lot of people.

This is one thing everyone can agree on. Nobody thinks, “The world is in great shape, all is well, we just need to keep it moving in the direction it’s going!” No. There is a universal sense that all is not well, and that the world needs changing.

The mess manifests in lots of ways: Poverty. Starvation. Hatred. Pollution. Greed. Crime. War. Human trafficking. Divorce. Violence. Lying. Cheating. Stealing. Prejudice. Sexual abuse. Conflict. Unemployment. Loneliness.

And these problems are not in some far-off corner of the world. They’re right here, in our cities and suburbs, and in our homes. But I don’t need to tell you that. You are more aware of these things than I was at your age. That’s because in many cases, sadly, you have been exposed to them.

The world needs changing. But the real question is: What are you going to do about it?

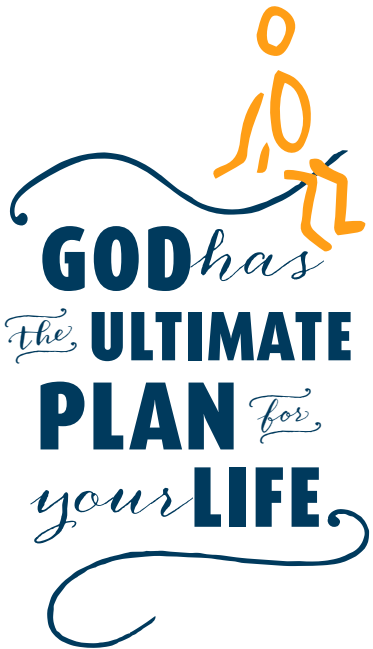
Don’t say, “I am too young to do anything about it.” Young people are capable of incredible things. And if you hide behind that excuse you will end up being one of those people who spend the first half of their lives saying, “I am too young” and the second half saying, “I am too old.”

Now is the time to start thinking about how you can make a difference. Now is the perfect time to start thinking about your mission in life.

The first step is to recognize that most of the mess—and most of the suffering—in this world is caused by sin. When we reject God’s plan and pursue our own selfish agenda, we leave behind us a trail of heartache and suffering. Sin makes us unhappy, and it brings misery to others. We saw this earlier in the program when we explored the Ten Commandments and asked the question: How much suffering would be avoided if everyone lived in alignment with the Ten Commandments?

The first step in living a purposeful life is to align ourselves with God and his plans for us and the world. The more I am aligned with God, the less mess, heartache, and suffering I cause.

There is a great story about the boy Samuel in the Bible. When he was about thirteen years old he worked for Eli in the temple. One night Samuel heard a voice calling his name. He thought it was Eli, so he



1 Samuel 3:1-21

KNOW IT: God kept calling Samuel until he responded.

THINK ABOUT IT: What is God calling you to?

LIVE IT: From time to time, use some of your prayer time to ask God what he is calling you to now.

went to him and asked what he needed. But Eli said he had not called Samuel and sent him back to bed. This happened three times, and then Eli realized it was the voice of God that was calling Samuel. Eli instructed Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you again say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" (1 Samuel 3:1-21). The Lord called Samuel again and told him he was going to do great things through him. Samuel went on to become one of the great prophets, guiding the people of Israel with courage and wisdom.

If you listen carefully, I think you will discover that God is calling you to do something about the mess in the world. How will you respond? "Not now God, I'm busy"? or "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

The world is a mess in many ways, but the beautiful thing is, you and I can do something about it. Deep down you know the world is not as it should be. So let's get busy doing something about that.

Luceat
LUX
vestra

Let your
LIGHT
Shine



What did Mary teach us about letting our light shine?



Discussion Questions

1. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK THE WORLD IS A MESS?

2. HOW DO YOU SENSE GOD IS CALLING YOU TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

3. WHAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN DO TODAY THAT WILL MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?





FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS
God has been using **ORDINARY PEOPLE**
to do **EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.**

God delights in dynamic collaboration with humanity.
He doesn't necessarily choose the people who are the
BEST EDUCATED or those who are *good-looking*;
he doesn't choose people because they are in **POSITIONS**
OF POWER AND AUTHORITY; and he doesn't always
choose the most *eloquent* and *persuasive*.
There is **ONE TYPE OF PERSON** that God has used
POWERFULLY over and over again *throughout*
history. It is the *prerequisite* **FOR MISSION.**
God does **INCREDIBLE THINGS** with the people who
MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO HIM.

HOW *Available* **ARE**
YOU TO GOD?



11.2 A WORLD ~~WITHOUT~~ NEIGHBORS

If your next-door neighbor had a child who was starving, what would you do? Would you help? Give the child some of your extra food? Find a way to get the child some food? Go without food yourself so that the child could be fed?

There is another great story, in Luke's Gospel. A man came to Jesus and asked him what he needed to do to get to Heaven. Jesus replied by asking a question himself: What is written in the law? (The Jewish people strove to live by "the law," which is found in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible.) The man replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." To this Jesus said, "You have given the right answer, do this, and you will live." (Luke 11:25-28) But the man pressed Jesus for clarification, asking, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The man said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 11:29-37)

In many ways we live in a world without neighbors today. Many people don't even know who their next-door neighbors are, and too often if a child were starving next door we wouldn't even know.

So, who is my neighbor?

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about this. My wife and I have three beautiful children and we do all we can to see to it that they have all they need physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. We are blessed materially and financially. But 22 percent of children in America live in poverty—that's more than sixteen million children. And while they may not live next door, they are my neighbors—and more than that, they are my brothers and sisters in Christ. And this is just America.

There are 2.2 billion children in the world, and one billion of them live in poverty.

Twenty-one thousand children die from poverty around the world every day. That's one child every four seconds, fourteen children dying every minute . . . and thirty-one children who have died since we began talking about it just over two minutes ago.

"They die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death." Unicef

They are our neighbors, yes, but more than that they are our family, our brothers and sisters. They are God's children.

What's the difference if the starving child lives next door or across the ocean? They are still God's children. And as always, God has a plan for his children. But he needs your help to fulfill his plan.

Will you set your plan aside and embrace his? If enough people do that, the world will become more just and much kinder, and be rid of so much unnecessary suffering.

**"THEY DIE QUIETLY
IN SOME OF THE
POOREST VILLAGES
ON EARTH, FAR
REMOVED FROM
THE SCRUTINY AND
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LIFE MAKES THESE
DYING MULTITUDES
EVEN MORE
INVISIBLE IN DEATH."**

—UNICEF

**WHO
IS
YOUR
NEIGHBOR
?**

Luke 11:25-37

KNOW IT: The Samaritans were looked down on in Jesus' time.

THINK ABOUT IT: Whom do you exclude, ignore, or look down upon?

LIVE IT: Go out of your way this week to include someone you would usually exclude.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. JESUS CALLS US TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS WE LOVE OURSELVES. WHOM DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR NEIGHBOR?

2. WHY DO YOU THINK SO MANY CHILDREN DIE FROM LACK OF FOOD?

3. ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?



11.3 Finding Your MISSION

Have you ever been told, "You can do anything you set your mind to," or "You can be whatever you want to be as long as you work harder than anyone else," or "You can have anything you want as long as you want it bad enough"? Lies. It's not true. They are nice ideas, but they are not true.

It wouldn't have mattered how hard Mother Teresa had worked at it or wanted it, she was never going to play basketball in the NBA. She lacked a number of abilities necessary to make that happen. And what a waste it would have been if instead of pursuing her God-given mission, Mother Teresa had been a basketball player.

Once again we discover the huge gulf between the ways of the world and the vision God has for your life. The world says life is about doing what you want, and that doing what you want will make you happy. God says he has the ultimate plan for your life, and following that plan is what will make you happy.

The thing is, God knows you better than anyone else. He knows you better than you know yourself. He designed you, and he designed you with a specific mission in mind. You were designed on purpose and for a purpose.

Albert Einstein wrote, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." If you are going to discover your mission, we first need to discover your genius. What are you uniquely designed to contribute?

If you bought a car and you wanted to discover how to bring the best out of it and achieve optimum performance, whom would you talk to about that? You could go online and read Internet articles. You could go down to the dealership and speak to the mechanic who specializes in that particular car. But the best person to speak to would be the person who designed and built the car.

In the same way, if you want to discover your mission, your genius, and how to bring the best out of yourself, the person to talk to is the one who designed and built you: *God*.

God speaks to us in lots of ways, but there are three ordinary voices that he uses to speak to us every day.

The first ordinary voice of God is: legitimate needs.

If you don't eat, you will die. Who created you with this need to eat? God.

If you don't breathe you will die even quicker. God has created you with legitimate needs. You have these legitimate needs in all four aspects of the human being: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. Physically you have legitimate needs for food, sleep, exercise, clothing, shelter, and many other things. Emotionally you have legitimate needs for opportunities to love and be loved. Intellectually you have legitimate needs to learn new things and stimulate and expand your thinking. Spiritually you have legitimate needs for silence, solitude, Scriptures, and sacraments.

The world says you will be most fully alive when you get what you want, but it's not true. In your lifetime you will encounter hundreds of people who are obsessed with getting what they want, but getting what they want won't make them happy. The reason is profoundly simple: You never can get enough of what you don't really need.

God has given you these legitimate needs. They are clues about how to live life to the fullest.

The second ordinary voice of God is: talents and abilities.

You have a unique blend of talents and abilities that are perfectly suited to carry out whatever mission God has assigned to you on this earth. There are two types: universal and unique. Universal talents are those that we all have. For example, we all have the ability to make a difference in other people's lives. Unique talents are those that everyone does not have. For example, the ability to paint like Van Gogh, write a symphony like Mozart, or be the best basketball player in the world.

The world is obsessed with unique talent, but when you consider the ability to make a difference in other people's lives alongside the ability to throw a great fastball, the baseball thing seems trivial. The reason it seems trivial is because it is. The world takes the trivial and makes it important, and takes the important and makes it trivial.

God has given you a unique blend of talents and abilities, and your talents and abilities are vocational. What does that mean? Well, they hold clues about your mission, your genius, your vocation, and the best way for you to live.

The third ordinary voice of God is: deepest desire.

Deep in your heart you have desires for good things, and God has placed those desires in your heart to guide you to the life he envisioned for you.

At lunchtime I often have a desire for chocolate doughnuts. But the desire for doughnuts is not a deep desire; in fact it is a fairly shallow

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP with the POOR?

YOU CAN NEVER get enough OF WHAT YOU DON'T really NEED

You have a unique blend of talents & abilities that are PERFECTLY SUITED to carry out whatever MISSION GOD HAS ASSIGNED TO YOU on this earth.

We are CHILDREN of GOD.





Who was JOHN HENRY NEWMAN?

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801–1890) was one of the central religious figures in England in the nineteenth century. A respected academic, he was originally a priest in the Church of England and a leader in the Oxford Movement. This was an influential group of Anglicans who wanted to return the Church of England to many Catholic beliefs and practices. In 1845 Newman left the Church of England and was received in the Roman Catholic Church, where he was eventually appointed as cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. Unlike most saints, his feast day is not the day of his death, but rather the day of his conversion to Catholicism, September 19.

desire. God wants us to get beyond our shallow desires, which are often selfish or pointless, and uncover the deepest desires of our hearts.

When I am the-best-version-of-myself, I say no to the doughnuts and I have a salad for lunch instead. To the world this is a simple choice between doughnuts and a salad. But as we grow spiritually, God shows us that there are many layers and dimensions to every decision.

On one level, yes, it's just a choice between doughnuts and a salad. On another level it's a choice between doughnuts and being healthy. That's a different perspective. On another level it's a choice between doughnuts and being alive and healthy enough to walk my daughter down the aisle when she gets married . . . to be alive to see her life unfold . . . and meet the person she will spend her life with . . . and meet my grandchildren. . . .


When we embrace God and his way of life, he reveals many dimensions of everyday life that we have never seen or thought about before. God is speaking to you through your deepest desires. Seek out your deepest desires for good things and have the courage to pursue them.

The most common preface to any sentence in the Bible is "God said . . ." God said to Adam, Noah, Moses, and Abraham. God spoke to everyone. It isn't that he has stopped speaking, but that humanity has stopped listening. God speaks to us in so many ways—through prayer, the Scriptures, the sacraments; through the life, teachings, and history of the Church; through other people, events, and circumstances.

You have been designed by God for a specific mission. This is what John Henry Newman wrote, "God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me, which he has not committed to another. I have my mission." God has assigned a mission to you. If you don't fulfill your mission it will go undone. The world is a mess because too many people have abandoned their God-given mission.

Find your mission. It will change your life in the most wonderful ways . . . forever!



 How can Mary help you find and live out your mission?

1. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO HAS FOUND AND FOLLOWED THEIR MISSION IN LIFE?

2. HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD WHAT MISSION HE HAS FOR YOU?

3. HOW DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOURSELF IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU?

PSALM 40

I call upon thee, O Lord; make haste to me!
Give ear to my voice, when I call to thee!

² Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice!

³ Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord,
keep watch over the door of my lips!

⁴ Incline not my heart to any evil,
to busy myself with wicked deeds
in company with men who work iniquity;
and let me not eat of their dainties!

⁵ Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness,
but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head;
for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.

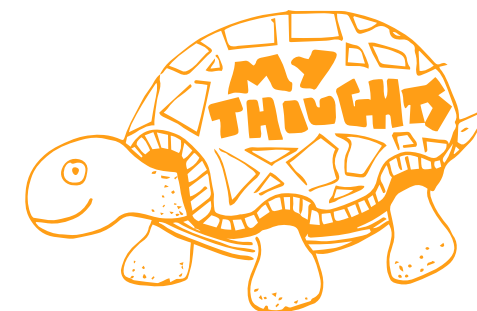
⁶ When they are given over to those who shall condemn them,
then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true.

⁷ As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land,
so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol.

⁸ But my eyes are toward thee, O Lord God;
in thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

⁹ Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me,
and from the snares of evildoers!

¹⁰ Let the wicked together fall
into their own nets, while I escape.



ARAHMAT LI'ANMIN NAD
MISERICORDIA DAYA
HURUMA MEROZ
MILOSERDZIE
MISERICORDE
MILOST' BARMHERZIGHEID
JITHI merhamet

114 YOUR UNTAPPED GREATNESS

Two months to the day before he died, Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech in Atlanta, in which he said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second law of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

The world says greatness is reserved for a few. God says everyone can be great. The world says if you are great everyone will serve you. God says if you are great you will serve everyone.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned in life is that getting outside myself is the starting point for good things to happen. When we get beyond ourselves and serve others we start down a sure path to happiness.

You can search the whole world for happiness, but it will elude you until you realize that it is only by bringing happiness to others that we ever find happiness for ourselves. Serving others is the surest path to happiness in this world, to discovering who you are and what you are here for. Serving others is at the core of the mission God has designed just for you.

But it is so easy to get caught up in ourselves, our plans, and our selfish desires. And when we are all caught up in ourselves, it is easy to ignore the suffering that is going on all around us.

There is a story in Luke's Gospel that makes me very uneasy every time I hear or read it. It is the story of Lazarus and the rich man. It goes like this:

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good

things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us."

This parable makes me uncomfortable because like the rich man I have nice clothes and plenty of them, and I have plenty to eat every day, and there are a lot of people suffering in this world. They might not be on my doorstep, but they are not far away. It makes me uncomfortable because this is Jesus speaking. This story is straight from the mouth of God. And from what Jesus describes of the afterlife, I know where I want to end up.

Our Christianity is constantly challenging us to assess our relationship with the poor. For a long time I would give money to the poor. I would donate to organizations that help the poor and I would give people on the street a few dollars. These things are good, but they don't give us personal contact with the poor. Our relationship with the poor can become very transactional if we are not careful. God calls us to more than that.

When it comes to helping the poor—and more than that, when it comes to being with the poor—our family, the Catholic Church, has an incredible track record. I have spoken often about the genius of Catholicism, and here we find it expressed in one of its most beautiful and practical ways.

Have you ever heard of the **Works of Mercy**? As Christians we bring the love and mercy of God to others by performing these works. That's a thing of beauty. Think about it: You get to bring the love and mercy of God to other people.

So, what are these works of mercy? They are divided into two categories: the Corporal Works of Mercy, which concern the material needs of others, and the Spiritual Works of Mercy, which concern the spiritual needs of others.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To visit the imprisoned
- To bury the dead

"JEALOUSY IS THE TRIBUTE MEDIOCRITY PAYS TO GENIUS."

-FULTON SHEEN

IS TECHNOLOGY GOOD OR BAD?
Like many things in this world, including material possessions and money, technology is morally neutral. It is neither good nor bad. What makes it good or bad is how we use it. Are you using technology in ways that are good or bad? Are you using it to help you become a-better-version-of-yourself?



What does
VOCATION
mean?

Vocation means "call." It's an invitation from God. There are many ways to live your life, but God has given you a unique blend of talents, abilities, and personality to carry out a mission that he has not assigned to anybody else. God may call you to the vocation of marriage, he may call you to live a single life, or he may call you to live as a priest or religious. Finding your vocation is like coming home after a long journey. It brings with it an indescribable joy.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To correct sinners
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive offenses willingly
- To comfort the afflicted
- To pray for the living and the dead

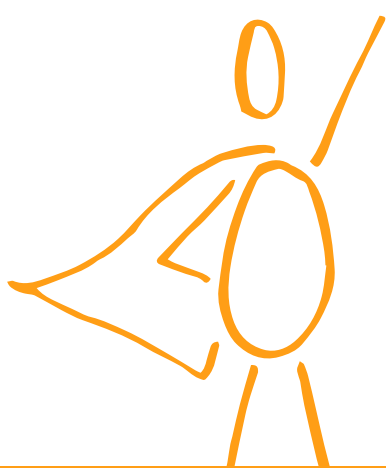
How would the world be different if everyone practiced just one work of mercy each day? How would the world be different if these works of mercy defined the way we live our lives? There is genius in Catholicism, but sadly it is little known and little practiced.

So here is my challenge for you. Each day for the next thirty days I want to encourage you to intentionally practice one of these works of mercy. You will be amazed how this thirty-day challenge can change you, the way you see the world, and your life.

You are so young and your lives are before you, so I want to beg you not to waste your single years waiting for life to happen. You will never have a better opportunity to serve than while you are young and single. Too many people spend their single years trying to wish them away. Singleness, like everything else, has a purpose. It is a time to discover who you are, what you are here for, what matters most, and what matters least. Nothing will help you develop this kind of personal clarity like service.

So, get outside yourself. Stop thinking that it is all about you. Find meaningful ways to serve. You will be so glad you did.

**FIND YOUR
MISSION**



Discussion Questions

1. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO IS GREAT AT SERVING OTHER PEOPLE?

2. WHAT DOES THE STORY ABOUT THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT?

3. DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE HAPPIER IF YOU FIND AND FOLLOW YOUR MISSION?



The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



DO small THINGS with GREAT Love

MOTHER TERESA

11.5 DECISION point

I cannot tell you what you should do with your life. I wish I could. Your parents, teachers, and friends cannot tell you either. We can all advise you, but ultimately God has created a unique journey for you, and it is only by listening to his voice that you will discover the indescribable joy that comes to us when we finally discover our mission in life.

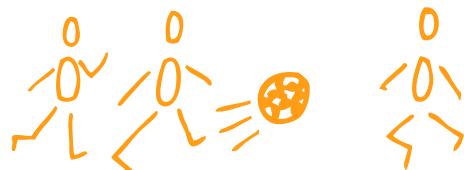
This joy I have experienced. It is not just an idea. There are two very concrete examples of it in my life. The first is with my work as an author and a speaker. There are many things I could be doing, but I know this is the thing that God wants me to be doing—that he created me for. How do I know? It's hard to describe. When you find your thing, you just know. There is a joy and a timelessness that you experience. You love doing it, even though it isn't always fun; you lose track of time when you are hard at work; and you have a deep peace within you, which comes from the sense that this is the thing for you to dedicate your life to. I want you to discover and experience that.

The other area of my life where I experience this joy is in my marriage. I have lived away from Australia for almost twenty years now. But every time I fly into Sydney, and see the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, I still get the same feeling. It is the feeling of arriving home. I travel a lot for work, and there is something wonderful about coming home. When I met Meggie I had that feeling. When I married her I had that feeling, the feeling that I was finally home. Whatever vocation God calls you to, I want you to experience that same feeling of arriving home after a long journey.

I can't tell you what your mission in life is, but I can tell you two things that will flawlessly help you to discover it.

1) While you may not know the specifics of your mission, you do know your mission in a broad sense, because it is the same for us all. Your mission is to make the love of God known to the world. In your own place and time, in your own ways, you are here to bring the love of God to every person who crosses your path.

2) Do the next right thing. The surest way to discover your mission is to do what you know to be the right thing, right now. If you do the next right thing often enough for long enough, you will live your way into the incredible life that God has designed just for you.



VIRTUE IN FOCUS

Gen·er·os·i·ty

[jen-uh-ros-i-tee]

Going beyond your own selfishness to give of your time, talent, and treasure to benefit others

Who is the most generous person you know?

Are generous people happier?

How can you be more generous?

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

2. ONE DAY, WHEN YOU ARE DYING, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON YOUR LIFE?

3. HOW AVAILABLE ARE YOU TO GOD?



MADE FOR MISSION

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. Done with purpose; deliberate
4. A native or inhabitant of Samaria
6. A disorderly or dirty accumulation, heap, or jumble
7. Everybody is a _____ in their own way.
8. A necessity
11. To feed the _____ is a corporal work of mercy.
14. To willingly _____ someone who has wronged you is a spiritual work of mercy.

DOWN

1. A short story that uses familiar events to illustrate a point
3. Abilities you have been given to help fulfill your God-given mission
5. To go out of your way to be of assistance to someone else
9. Something that is desired but not necessarily needed
10. You have been masterfully designed for a _____.
12. To be kind, caring, compassionate, and forgiving is to show _____.
13. The law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures
15. God made you for _____.

