



national youthsunday

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he take his seat upon his throne of glory,"

HOMILY HINTS ON THE SYNOD ON YOUTH, FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Link with the readings: 'I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view.'

Last year Pope Francis asked that we, the whole body of Christ, take the time to look after young people, particularly in relation to their faith and vocational discernment. As we hear in the first reading, to look after refers to meeting their needs, but how can we do this without finding out what their needs are?

Potential Story: It is much easier to see a broken leg than a broken heart and applying the remedy for a broken leg to a broken heart is not of much use, so we need to listen to young people. Listen to what life is like for them, listen to their questions, cares, concerns, hopes and fears. Then, by trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work in the conversation, we can begin to look for a solution with them, a solution that provides them with the opportunity to encounter Christ and find out who God has created them to be. For example: [insert a story about the life of young person transformed by somebody giving them some time.]

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

'Every young person has something to say to others. He or she has something to say to adults, something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the Pope. All of us need to listen to you!'

POPE FRANCIS

'The reason we have said that all should be called for counsel is that the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best.'

ST BENEDICT

'Through this journey, the church wants to listen to the voices, the sensibilities, the faith as well as the doubts and criticisms of young people. We must listen to young people.'

POPE FRANCIS

Information around the Synod: The responsibility of listening and responding to young people is not only on our shoulders but as a universal Church we share it with our brothers and sisters around the world. In October 2018, Bishops and others from around the world will gather with Pope Francis to explore how the Church can become better at helping young people to grow in faith and make good life choices. Throughout the year young people will be invited to tell different aspects of the Church about their lives and impressions of being a Catholic. As a parish, we would like to [Insert information about how the parish will listen to young people]

Final Exhortation: By taking the time to listen to and learn from young people - rather than presume to know the solution to their problems - we become more receptive to how the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives and are better prepared to respond accordingly.