

ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

A TEEN'S JOURNEY
TO CHRISTMAS
2019 ★

For Teens



CELEBRATING THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

All work has a threefold moral significance. First, it is a principal way that people exercise the distinctive human capacity for self-expression and self-realization. Second, it is the ordinary way for human beings to fulfill their material needs. Finally, work enables people to contribute to the well-being of the larger community. Work is not only for one's self. It is for one's family, for the nation, and indeed for the benefit of the entire human family.

■ **Economic Justice for All**, #97

Created in God's image and likeness, we received the mandate to transform the Earth. By our work, we share in God's creative activity.... Awareness that our work is a sharing in God's work ought to permeate even the most ordinary daily activities.

By our labor we are unfolding the Creator's work and contributing to the realization of God's plan on Earth. The Christian message does not stop us from building the world or make us neglect our fellow human beings. On the contrary, it binds us more firmly to do just that.

■ Paraphrase of **On Human Work**, #25

Check jobs YOU HAVE DONE

- ☐ Baby-sitting
- ☐ Mowing lawns
- ☐ Helping with chores at home
- ☐ Working at a fast-food restaurant

Think about your jobs.

Were you paid for the work you did? Did you value work for which you were paid more than work you did without pay? For example, did you work harder when you were being paid than you did when you were not paid? When you were paid, did you feel the pay you received was just and fair?

The principle of the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers states that everyone has the right to meaningful work, just wages, and safe conditions. List careers you are interested in that would give you this kind of work.

Now think about these questions. What do you think God is calling you to do? What kind of work would allow you to help to build the Kingdom of God? What careers would give you this kind of work? Are they the same or different from your above list?



First Friday of Advent
DECEMBER 6 ★ SAINT NICHOLAS

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district. « MATTHEW 9:27-31 »

Do you believe because you see, or do you see because you believe? Reflect on this question for a few moments. How would you answer?



What are some times when you might be blind to injustices around you? For each context below, describe an injustice that you haven’t really paid attention to in the past. How can you open your eyes to the injustice? How will you respond in the future?

SETTING	INJUSTICE I HAVE NOT TRULY SEEN	MY RESPONSE IN THE FUTURE
At school		
In my community		
My own or another country		

Five ways to Celebrate the Care for God's Creation

1 Organize a group to do a community cleanup. Choose a park or area of your community and do your part to clean it up.

2 Research recycling regulations and options in your area. Work with your family to develop a strategy to do a little more to recycle waste.

3 Learn how to shrink your carbon footprint by visiting catholicclimatecovenant.org.

4 Go to a local nursery and buy a couple of seedling trees. Plant the seedlings in your yard and care for them. Watch them grow!

5 Look in your closet for clothes that you no longer wear. Donate these items to a local thrift shop for resale.

Our Role Model in Faith

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis of Assisi was born into the family of a wealthy clothing merchant in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 or 1182.

In his early years, he enjoyed his family's comfortable lifestyle, but a serious illness led Francis to reflect on and change his life. In the chapel of St. Damiano, Francis received a message from Christ: "Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin." At first, Francis thought the message meant that he should rebuild the chapel. So, he put on a simple earth-colored garment tied with a cord, and worked at rebuilding the chapel. He eventually went on to found a new community, the Franciscans, and to work to renew the Church. St. Francis was also known for his love of animals and nature. In the "Canticle of the Sun," St. Francis praised all of God's creation, including "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon." He truly saw the presence of God in all of creation. St. Francis died on October 4, 1226.



Let us pray

Creator God, maker of all things seen and unseen, be with us as we prepare for the birth of your Son, Jesus. Just as St. Francis cared for all of your creation and celebrated your presence in all that he saw and touched, help us, too, to be stewards of the earth, seeing the goodness of the world and caring for all of creation. We ask this through Jesus, your son. Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Advent DECEMBER 22

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ....

« ROMANS 1:1-6 »

***Called to be an apostle. Called to belong to Jesus Christ.
Which principle of Catholic social teaching do these phrases suggest?***

As a member of a family or of any other community, each person has to come to a proper balance in his or her relationships. These words describe three ways of relating to others. **Draw a line from each word to its best definition.**

Dependent

mutual; related to one another in such a way that each one benefits from the relationship

Independent

relying on someone or something else for support or help; contingent on another

Interdependent

free from the influence or guidance of others in matters of opinion or conduct; thinking or acting for oneself; self-reliant

Which way or ways of relating to others do you believe best serves family life and the life of communities? Why?

