



**STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & ECO-THOUGHT
YEAR B – 24OT TO CHRISTUS REX**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? (James 2.14)

In secular terms:

Actions speak louder than words

Put your money where your mouth is.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Eco-Thought

We need to recognize our utter dependence on the great life-producing matrix of the planet in order to learn to reintegrate our human systems of production, consumption, and waste into the ecological patterns by which nature sustains life.

~ Rosemary R. Ruether

Do as I say, not as I do! It is often easier to say than to do. When it comes to recycling, be the change you want to see. Make your purchases with packaging in mind. Less is more with packaging, and when it comes to being an example, more is more.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me. (Mark 9.37)

We are connected to God through one another. Our interdependence makes us God's ministers.

Eco-Thought

If you were all alone in the universe with no one to talk to, no one with which to share the beauty of the stars, to laugh with, to touch, what would be your purpose in life? It is other life, it is love, which gives your life meaning.

~ Mitsugi Saotome

Everything in the world is interconnected. Each of our actions has consequences for others, for the world. Take the time to learn about where your purchases originate. Consider the resources needed to get them to you. The production cycle should be a sustainable one, not a throw away one.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Would that all the Lord's people were prophets. (Numbers 11.29)

At baptism you were ordained a prophet of the Lord. How do your words and actions foretell the Kingdom of God?

Eco-Thought

It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know of wonder and humility.

~ Rachel Carson

The way we treat animals, things, and people says a lot about who we are and what we believe. Align your behaviour with our weekly scripture readings. We are always setting an example, even when aren't aware of it.

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

The Lord God . . . put [Adam] in the garden of Eden to till and keep it. (Genesis 2.7-8)

The Lord has entrusted to each of us our proper garden of Eden: the earth and her people, your country, your neighbours, family, body, and mind. What have you done with the garden entrusted to you?

Eco-Thought

To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves.

~ Gandhi

These days it is easy for children to grow up without knowledge of or respect for the source of our food. Teach a child about nature or learn something new yourself.

Some suggestions: visit a farm, a farmer's market, go berry picking, take a course, stop by the local library, watch a documentary.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Jesus, looking at him, loved him (Mark 10.21)

The rich young man had almost everything he could want. Only Jesus could give him the one thing he lacked. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, we too can give others "the look of love which they crave." (Deus Caritas Est 18)

Eco-Thought

...love the earth and sun and the animals [...], have patience and indulgence toward the people...

~ Walt Whitman

It's so easy to look away, but it's by not looking away that we show that we care about the people and world around us. Instead of looking away, look with the intent of making a difference. Make the blessing of your presence known in this world.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant. (Mark 10.43)

Our service to the poor and afflicted transforms us, moulding us day by day into the likeness of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

Eco-Thought

Respect for nature and respect for human life are inextricably related.

~ US Catholic Conference

If you will be running errands, ask a friend, neighbour, or family member if you can do something for them along the way. It will save fuel, keep a car off the road, and build your relationship.

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! (Mark 10.47)

To whom do you turn in your affliction? Have you enough faith in Jesus to cry out like Bartimaeus? God has long promised to console His people and lead them home.

Eco-Thought

To plant a tree is to say Yes to life; it is to affirm our faith in the future.

~ Rev. Francis Simons

Use technology well. GPS offers the shortest route as a way to save time and fuel. The iPhone and Blackberry provide real time traffic estimates in major cities.

All Saints

Scripture Reflection

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3.1)
The life of discipleship can feel like swimming upstream against the flow of society at large. We can feel not only misunderstood but even reviled and persecuted. Moreover, how do we keep ourselves from being tainted? Our hope is that when God is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Eco-Thought

My [...] reason for hope lies in the amazing resilience of nature if we give her a chance – and, if necessary, a helping hand.

~ Jane Goodall

Often the biggest impact is from ideas that go against conventional thinking. We have been given a gift from God in one another and in everything around us. Make the most of God's gifts by recognising and respecting them in yourself and in others.

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. (Mark 12:44)

Both widows in today's readings trusted enough in the Lord to hand over their livelihood and thereby their lives. What is it to give out of our poverty if not the gift of our very selves?

Eco-Thought

The poor of the earth offer a special test of our solidarity. The painful adjustments we have to undertake in our own economies for the sake of the environment must not diminish our sensitivity to the needs of the poor at home and abroad.

~ The US Catholic Conference

Challenge: Make some offering of yourself every day this week. Don't just give out of your abundance, give also out of your poverty. If you are short on cash, give some money, if you are short on time, give an hour. See how God provides.

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Scripture Reflection

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Particular needs in the world come and go but our need to give is immanent.

Eco-Thought

Garbage becomes rose, rose becomes compost – everything is in transformation.
Even permanence is impermanent.

~Thich Nhat Hanh

Day turns to night but in the city, light obscures our view of the stars. Bring our nearest star into view at night by using solar lights outdoors. These lights reduce your electricity consumption by harvesting the sun during the day to produce light at night.

Christ the King**Scripture Reflection**

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord (Revelation 1:8)

At the start of our lives, everything that we have and everything that we are come from God. At the end of our earthly sojourn all we have and all we are return to the Lord. In the meantime, we are stewards; may our gifts return with increase!

Eco-Thought

May it be my custom to go outdoors each day, among the trees and grasses, among all growing things, there to be alone and enter into prayer. There may I express all that is in my heart, talking with You, to Whom I belong.

~ Rabbi Nachman

In your purchases, consider how far a product has come from the earth and how easily it can be returned to the earth.