

Who are we to God?

Opening prayer

The Mission of My Life
By John Henry Newman

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.
I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.
I am a link in the chain, a bond connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good; I shall do his work.
I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it if I do but keep his Commandments.
Therefore, I will trust him, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him,
In perplexity, my perplexity may serve him.
If I am in sorrow may my sorrow serve him.
He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about.

Consider for a moment what is your mission? What is your God given purpose? What purpose were you uniquely created to fulfill? God created you to be you, His beloved child.

ENCOUNTER -

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you" 1 Corinthians 3:16

A message from Pope Francis on who you are called to be today:

In your schools you take part in various activities that accustom you to not retreating into yourselves or into your own small world, but rather to being open to others especially the poorest and neediest. They accustom you to working hard to improve the world in which we live. Be men and women with others and for others, true champions of the service of others.

You are chosen. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation the same Holy Spirit, that descended upon Jesus after his baptism by John the Baptist, comes to strengthen you. The Holy Spirit arms us for our life-long journey to live out our God given mission. Embrace who you are and allow yourself to be fortified by the Holy Spirit, a critical companion on your journey through life. We are all flawed. We are all sinners, but God sees us for who we can become – a person created in his likeness and image. While it may seem easier at times to convince ourselves that we are too flawed to deepen our relationship with God, know that He does not abandon us. Consider what you can do to grow your relationship with Jesus and to grow into the person God created you to be. Lift the weight of sin by going to confession. Dine at God's table at Mass. Spend quiet time with God during Adoration. Think of the changes in Zacchaeus when he opened himself up to Jesus. Are you ready to make a radical change like he did?

Read the story of Zacchaeus.

Think of the difference between how Zacchaeus was viewed by others and how he was viewed by Jesus.

What happened when he was honest with Jesus?

What was Jesus' response?

Why was Jesus' response so shocking to the crowd?

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2019%3A1-10&version=NIVZ>

If you want here is a cartoon depiction of Zacchaeus not quite Pixar, but it gets the message across –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BjtbJFz2ug&t=5s>

First let's consider – How do you relate to Zacchaeus?

Which self do you present to God?

Do you present your true self to your family? Your friends? On social media?

If we consider original works of art masterpieces, why do we often try so hard to be anything but original or the true person God created us to be?

How many masks do you wear?

Watch Father Mike's discussion on presenting our true self to others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0w6MNP8CNk>

Do you believe you are a saint with a future?

What can you commit to doing today to become closer to your true self?

ENGAGE

The beauty in embracing our true self is that it often gives people around us a safe space to do the same. What would your school look like if people were encouraged to be their true self, if they stopped judging and started growing? What if we allowed one another to more fully share our talents and gifts.

Why is this important to put our judgments aside and create a place for people to be who God created them to be? A place where people could embrace their mission?

How can you change the lens by which you view others?

Watch the Single Story and reflect upon:

How do we define ourselves?

How do we define or see others?

What would it take to view others with the eyes of God?

How do we limit our circle by dividing and limiting the view we have of others?

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Consider the attached words of identity list. These are words that God could use to define you. Please look over the list and choose 5 words that you feel define you. Write them on pieces of paper and put them places in your room that you will see every day. Believe that God does not see you as flawed or less than, He sees you as His. Please have your 5 words ready for class.

EMBRACE

"We are not called to serve merely in order to receive a reward, but rather to imitate God, who made Himself a servant for our love. Nor are we called to serve only now and again, but to live in serving. Service is thus a way of life; indeed it recapitulates the entire Christian way of life: serving God in adoration and prayer; being open and available; loving our neighbor with practical deeds; passionately working for the common good."

— Pope Francis, Homily at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Bazu, Azerbaijan, Oct. 2, 2016

This month try to do at least two of the following:

Go to one of the following:

Attend Mass virtually or in-person

Virtual Stations of the Cross;

Adoration, Sunday afternoons at 4:00-4:45pm

Reconciliation

Need a reminder on what/how it works? Watch this busted halo video on confession:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJg29UG6028>

Need a reminder on why we need it? Watch this quick video from Mr. Rogers on forgiveness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDjuWfAd70I>

Pray for yourself, someone you love, someone you know and someone who you find hard to love.

Write God a letter of thanks.

Give up coffee, a regular treat or simply save your spare change during the month of March. At the end of the month give what you have saved to an organization helping others like CRS, Foodshare, Marlborough Food Bank, House of Bread, Catholic Worker House.

Go for a walk. Notice the gift of creation all around you. Notice the sights, smells and sounds.

Participate in some of the service projects I offer every month.

Family Questions

How would you describe how God sees you to others in your family?

When is it easy to be the person God created you to be?

When is it difficult to be the person God created you to be?

Who helps you to become the best version of yourself (this is the person God wants you to be)?

How do they do it?

Playlist within a playlist

Who am I - Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rT8Re1EIQc>

Rescue by Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYR0xP1j4PY>

Lord I need you by Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuvfMDhTyMA>

You Lead by Jamie Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFmSzL2ppvq>

Do Something by Matthew West

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8

How Can it Be by Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wt5X91ciE6Y>

Other resources:

USCCB – examination of conscience <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience>