

“Our Earth is talking to us, and we must listen to it and decipher its message if we want to survive.”

Pope Benedict XVI



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8

Psalms 14: 2-5

James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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Jesus lays out sins that come from within us: covetousness, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. These come from the essence of our very being, from our heart! *“For from the abundance of our heart, the mouth speaks”*. Every good or evil intention is within us. We are capable of good and evil acts. The more we are able to control the *‘corrupt and corroded intentions’* that we have, the better.

Often, we may think we are doing well and that our heart is in the right place. We tend to do what pleases the world and everyone around us. If everyone is happy with us, we think we must be on the right track. It is easy to get “sidetracked” this way. This is the way of the world and we often follow these worldly sentiments. This practice becomes a habit, and habits mould our character and our hearts.

Sometimes we need to stop and check where we are. What exactly is our heart telling us? Do we possess some of these sinful inclinations that Jesus warns us about? Are we too comfortable with our lives that we think we are always right?

St James explains true religion as looking into the needs of others and points us especially towards widows and orphans. Today there are equally pressing needs in our own communities. Migrants living in the interiors with nothing much, broken refugee families, prisoners and their families in shame, the urban B40 hardcore poor who need a helping hand.

St James steers us to worry about “the last, the least, the little and the lost”, living near us. But this is not easy to do. How often have we taken the trouble to reach out to them? Where is our heart? Whose voice are we listening to? More importantly, what messages are we sharing, coming from deep within us, coming from our heart?

It’s time for a frank and honest heart check. ✚

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

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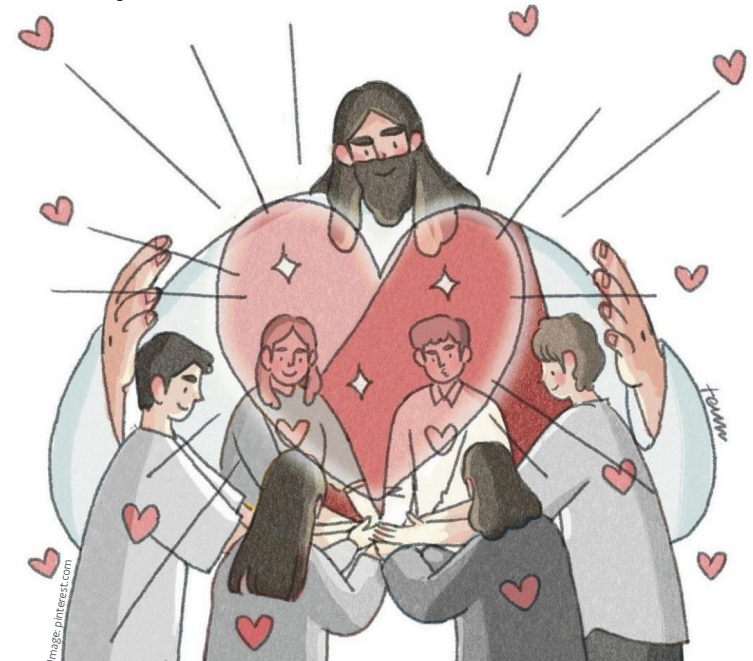
1 September 2024
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF
COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).

MONTHLY FOCUS LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Where Is Our Heart?

The disciples ate with unclean hands and this displeased the people who complained to Jesus. Knowing what the complaint was about, Jesus reminds his listeners **not to worry about what goes into a person but about what comes out of him or her.**



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