

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

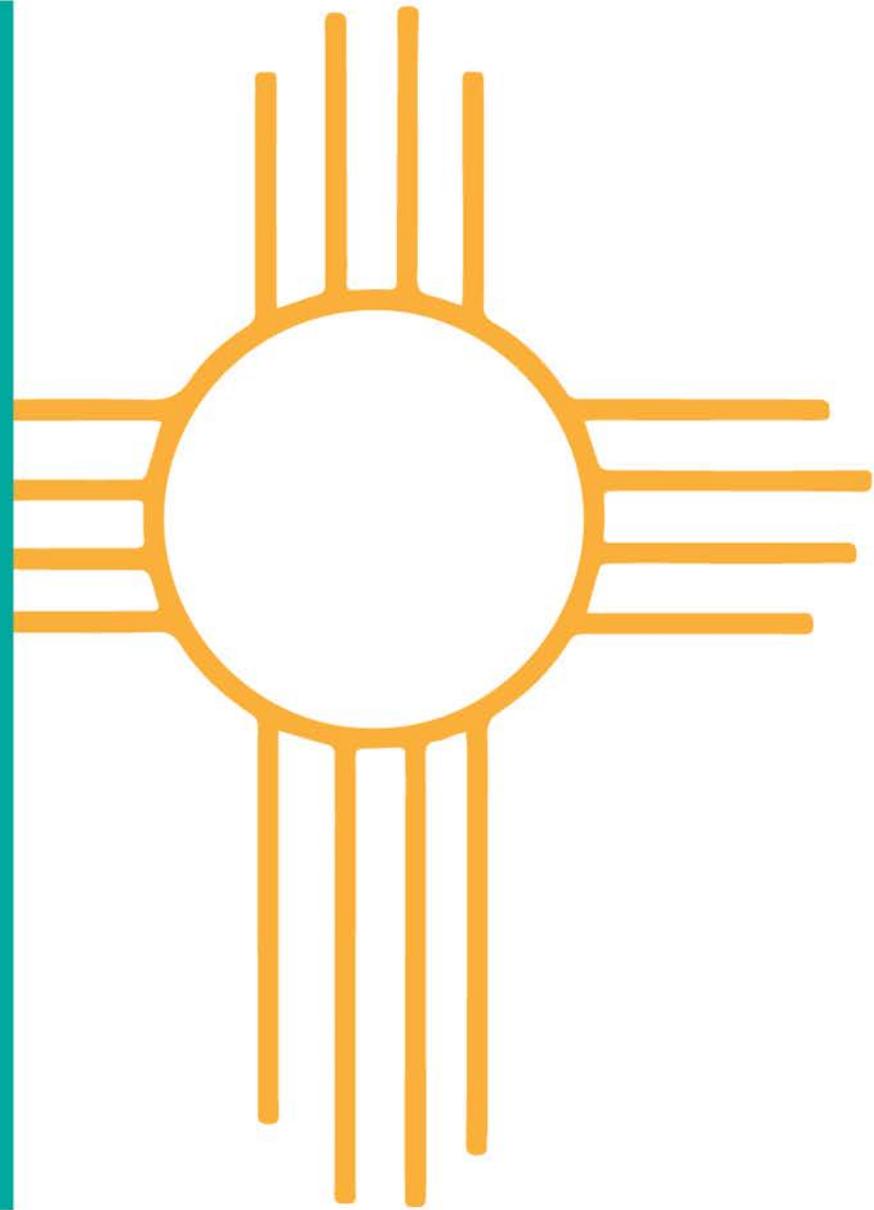
REBUILD

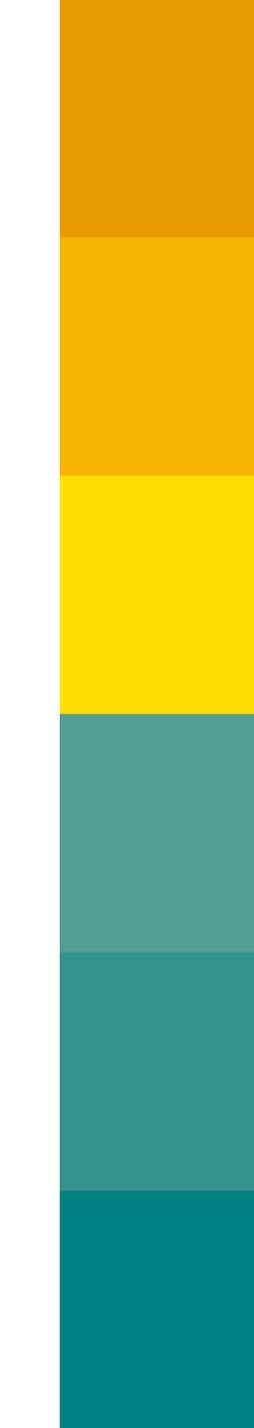
RESTORE



RENEW

TOGETHER





February Prayer Service

RESTORE

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“Lift High the Cross”

G.W. Kitchin, Catholic Book of Worship III #435

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbcBXYP4AIE>

“Donne nous seigneur un coeur nouveau”

Lucien Deiss, Catholic Book of Worship III #621A/B

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKC5YhxqoHU>

“Gather Us Together”

Owen Alstott, Catholic Book of Worship III #601

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSeX-c60kyc>



Opening Prayer

O God,

Who raised up Saint Mark, your Evangelist, and endowed him with grace to preach the Gospel, grant we pray, that we may so profit from his teaching as to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.

Lord Jesus, master teacher and savior, guide us to lead and serve the poor, vulnerable, and one another, in your image and likeness.

Give us the courage and strength to reconcile relationships that need care and healing, and nurture us to Rebuild, Restore and Renew Together, now and always.

Guide us in restoring our world, guide us in restoring our communities, guide us in restoring our parishes and schools, as we rededicate our lives to Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen. +



Call to Prayer

Together as a community, as we discern the truth and as we reflect in solitude to unlearn our internal biases, let us be mindful of the words of Pope Francis:

“A love capable of transcending borders is the basis of what in every city and country, can be called, ‘social friendship.’ Genuine social friendship within a society makes true universal openness possible.” (Fratelli Tutti, No. 99)



First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Job (12:7-10, 13)

Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea, will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being... With God are wisdom and strength; he has counsel and understanding.

The Word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God.



Second Reading

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1 Peter 5:3-11)

Do not lord it over the group which is in your charge, but be an example for the flock. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the unfading crown of glory. In the same way, younger people, be subject to the elders. Humility towards one another must be the garment you all wear constantly, because God opposes the proud, but accords his favor to the humble. Bow down, then, before the power of God now, so that he may raise you up in due time; unload all your burden on to him, since he is concerned about you. Keep sober and alert, because your enemy the devil is on the prowl like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Stand up to him, strong in faith, and in the knowledge that it is the same kind of suffering that the community of your brothers throughout the world is undergoing. You will have to suffer only for a little while; the God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ will restore you, he will confirm, strengthen and support you. His power lasts forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God.



Questions for Personal Reflection

- *Reflect upon the Golden Rule. Have you had negative or unkind thoughts towards a person or a group of people? How would embracing the Golden Rule help to restore those thoughts?*
- *Reconciliation is at the heart of restoring relationships. When trying to reconcile a fractured relationship, whom did you turn to for support? Were you able to turn to prayer? Why or why not?*
- *Have you had an opportunity to speak out or speak up against injustice and hatred? Reflect upon what you did or did not do. What would you do differently next time?*
- *How does your faith call you to respond to hatred and injustice?*

Reflection from “The Word Among Us” Excerpt

April 25, 2018

When we see “Saint” in front of someone’s name, we might think they got that way on their own. But, St. Mark tells us a different story. He might have faded into history if someone else hadn’t believed him.

Mark was the son of Mary, a widow in whose house the early Christians gathered (Acts 12:12). Although not one of the twelve apostles, Mark may well have been one of Jesus’ followers. He also accompanied his cousins, Barnabas and Paul, on their first missionary journey, but for some reason, he left them prematurely (13:13). When it was time for the next trip, Paul didn’t want to take Mark along. In his eyes, Mark had deserted the cause and couldn’t be trusted (15:38).

Fortunately, Barnabas didn’t give up on him. While Paul went on to Syria with Silas, Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus (15:39-41). And that second chance was all he needed. Tradition tells us that Mark went on to Rome, became Peter’s interpreter, and later wrote the first Gospel. Even Paul forgave Mark eventually. Later in life, he commended Mark for his service and called his companionship a “comfort” (Colossians 4:11).

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:
REBUILD
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TOGETHER



Reflection from “The Word Among Us” Excerpt

April 25, 2018 ...*Continued*

Now, what if Barnabas had rejected Mark as well? The young man might never have become Peter’s son in the faith (1 Peter 5:13). What’s worse, he might never have written his Gospel – which means that Matthew and Luke might not have written their Gospels either! If Barnabas hadn’t shown Mark a little compassion, who knows what kind of Bible we would be reading today.

The story of Mark’s life urges us not to give up on each other. God’s love can cover not only “a multitude of sins,” but desertions, weaknesses, failures, and individual quirks as well (1 Peter 4:8). Barnabas saw something in Mark that Paul couldn’t see. Looking with the eyes of mercy and patience, he saw Mark’s potential and stuck with him.

Everyone has the potential to become a saint. All they need, is someone to show them patience and encouragement.

➤ *Is there a St. Mark in your life?*

“Father, help me to emphasize the gifts in people instead of their shortcomings. Show me how to love, encourage and inspire them.”
(<https://wau.org/meditations/2018/04/25/45299/>)



Questions for Personal Reflection

- *Think of someone who believed in you the way Barnabas believed in Mark. How did that make you feel and how has that impacted your relationships at school/work? At home? In your parish?*
- *To be a disciple, John 13:34 states, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*
 - *Are you a disciple of Christ?*
 - *Do you love everyone the way Jesus loves you?*
 - *What biases do you hold that you need to let go of to truly be a disciple?*
 - *Is there a relationship in your life that requires care, attention, and restoration? Using the reflection from, "The Word Among Us" as an example, who can you believe in to restore that relationship?*

Closing Prayer

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
You created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams.
Amen. +

(Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter, Fratelli Tutti, 2020)

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html





“City of God”

Catholic Book of Worship III #345

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnya9uh0oZo>

“Love One Another”

Tommy Walker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reQ0zkCs9_w

“We are Many Parts”

Marty Haugen, Gather Hymnal #512

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cU5o72NtKBI>

