

Pflaum

VenTuRe

March 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

How Can I Be Compassionate?

You can hardly speak English.

You should
not be here.

I want to join the team.



Don't worry, she's too dumb to care.

You're not kidding!

I feel stupid.



Let's pretend we don't hear her and
invite her to get lost.

I would like to be in the play.



How will these children act with
compassion? Fold the paper lengthwise
so the hearts ♥ meet to find out.

REMEMBER the Children

Imagine the leader of a country—a prime minister, queen, or president—saying, **“All the problems in our country are the fault of Roman Catholics.”** Imagine this leader telling people who are not Catholics to stay away from those who are. What if this person even told people not to buy things in Catholic stores, not to hire Catholics, or not to let Catholics go to public schools? How would you feel?

These are the questions that art teacher Becky Berman asked her students in New York City. Her students could not believe such things would ever happen.

But these things did happen to Jewish people and other people in Germany in the 1930s. Some Germans hated Jews and Gypsies and Communists and Catholics and blamed them for everything that went wrong.

Adolf Hitler, Germany’s leader at that time, convinced many people that Jews were not as good as other people and did not deserve to live. People who followed Hitler were called Nazis.

The Nazis first made the people they hated seem different. They forced Jewish people to wear yellow stars on their clothes. They did not let them hold certain jobs. Then



The children’s tiles are displayed on a wall of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

they forced them to live in one area called a ghetto.

Finally, the Nazis sent the people they hated to concentration camps. There, they forced them to work, beat them, and starved them.

In the end, Nazis killed six million Jews with poisonous gas and burned their bodies in huge ovens. The Nazis killed children first, because they were not strong enough to work hard. This mass killing is called the Holocaust. It happened during World War II, a little more than seventy-five years ago.

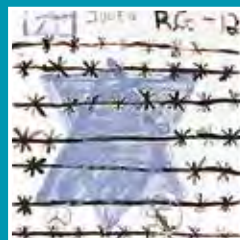
“Jews were not the only ones killed in the Holocaust,” says Mrs. Berman. “But they were killed just because they were Jewish.” Mrs. Berman thinks the children in her class need to know about the Holocaust. That’s why she involved her class in making tiles for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in



Washington, D.C.

This museum where people can learn about the Holocaust opened in 1993. Children all over the country created wall tiles to honor the more than one million children who were killed by the Nazis. These tiles were put together to make a children’s Wall of Remembrance, a permanent exhibit in the museum that holds 10,000 tiles.

To prepare to make tiles, teachers such as Becky Berman taught their students about what happened during the Holocaust. Then the children drew on the tiles their thoughts and feelings about what they learned.



Afterward, they colored their pictures with paint. When the tiles dried, they packed them carefully in special boxes and sent them to Washington.

One class drew pictures of all the things the children who died would never do. On one tile, a boy at a piano says, “I will never be a piano player.” Another tile shows a child asking, “Will I ever be a doctor?”

Other children painted their hope that such a terrible thing would never happen again.

They drew doves of peace flying over wagonloads of children. One boy drew a picture of Nazi soldiers screaming at people. “I thought about how frightened the people were,” he said. When he painted his tile, another boy thought about the enormous number of Jewish people who were killed. “It was hard to imagine so many people dying,” he said.

An exhibit at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum called “Daniel’s Story” helps people understand what the Holocaust was like for a Jewish boy and his family. Visitors to the exhibit first

walk into the cozy living room where Daniel and his family lived before the Nazis came to power. Then visitors see a miserable street in the crowded neighborhood into which the Nazis forced the Jews. Finally, they walk through a filthy, dark ghetto room with straw mattresses and tin plates. This is the last room where Daniel lived before going to the concentration camp.

After walking through the exhibit, children can draw their feelings on paper or cardboard and leave their artwork as a postcard to Daniel.

They can also listen on interactive phones to stories of people who survived the Holocaust.

Mrs. Berman explains to her students that if they do not know about the Holocaust, they might ignore prejudice when they see or hear it. “We have to stop injustices when they’re very tiny, and we are big enough to squash them,” she says. The thought is that if people had refused to listen to the Nazis at the very beginning, the Holocaust might never have happened.

Shoah is a Hebrew word that means “whirlwind.” Each year on *Yom HaShoah*, people worldwide remember the six million Jewish people who were murdered in the Holocaust. This day is the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (April 19, 1943) when Nazis tried to move the Jewish people in the ghetto to one of two concentration camps. The Jews in the ghetto fought back, but without success.

This year, *Yom HaShoah* is on April 21. In the United States, the Days of Remembrance will be observed from April 19–26. People pray, light candles, and attend memorial services. Survivors also share their stories.



- 1** What did Hitler and the Nazis do to make Jewish people seem different?
- 2** Why do children paint tiles for the Wall of Remembrance? What would you paint on a tile for the Wall of Remembrance?
- 3** Why do you think it is important to learn about and remember the Holocaust? Why is it important to share our history and the stories of our families?
- 4** In what ways do you stand up for what you believe in and for those you love?



SUNDAY GOSPEL

5th Sunday of Lent

John 11:1–45

Martha and Mary Believe in Jesus

SCENE 1

Narrator: As this story begins, a man named Lazarus is seriously ill. He is from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha, near Jerusalem. Mary, Lazarus's sister, is the one who poured perfumed oil on Jesus and dried his feet with her hair. The three are good friends of Jesus. When Lazarus becomes ill, Martha and Mary send word to Jesus.

Mary: How much do you think we should tell him?

Martha: Just say, "Jesus, your friend whom you love is sick." We can trust Jesus to do the best thing.

Mary: I hope he comes soon, or it will be too late.

SCENE 2

Narrator: Jesus and some of his followers had gone away from Jerusalem because many officials thought Jesus' teachings were dangerous and wanted to get rid of him. Soon Jesus got the letter from Martha and Mary.

Jesus: This illness will not end in death. It will bring glory to God, because it will show the glory of the Son of God.

Narrator: Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. He stayed where he was for another two days. Then he said to his followers:

Jesus: Let us go back to Judea.

Followers: Rabbi, only a few days ago, the officials were trying to stone you to death. You can't go back there.

Jesus: Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to wake him. I will be all right.

Followers: If he is asleep, he will be all right.

Jesus: Lazarus has died. I'm glad I wasn't there because now you will learn to believe in me. Let's go to him.

SCENE 3

Thomas: Let's go, too, that we may die with him.

Narrator: Jesus arrived in Bethany four days after Lazarus's funeral. Friends had come from nearby Jerusalem. They were still visiting with his two sisters.

Servant: Martha, your friend Jesus is coming.

Martha: I'll go and meet him. Please tell Mary I'll be right back.

SCENE 4

Narrator: Martha walked to meet Jesus.

Martha: Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.



Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they must taste death. And people who are alive and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Martha: Yes, Lord. I do believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the One who is to come into the world.

SCENE 5

Narrator: Martha went back to the house and called her sister in secret.

Martha: Mary, Jesus is here and wants to see you.

Narrator: When the visitors from Jerusalem saw Mary leave, they followed her. They thought she was going to Lazarus's tomb to mourn. Instead she went up to Jesus and knelt down before him, weeping.

SCENE 6

Mary: If you had only been here, Lazarus would not have died.

Jesus: I am sad, too. Where have you put him?

Mary: Come and see.

First Group of Mourners: Look, Jesus is crying, too. See how much he loved Lazarus.

Second Group of Mourners: He opened a blind man's eyes. Why didn't he keep his friend from dying?

SCENE 7

Narrator: Jesus was still upset. He came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus: Take away the stone.

Martha: But he has been dead for four days. There will be a smell.

Jesus: Didn't I say that if you believed, you would see what wonders God can do? Take the stone away.

Narrator: Several of the men rolled the stone away. Jesus raised his eyes to Heaven.

Jesus: Father, thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me, but I say this so that people here may believe that you have sent me. Lazarus, come out!

Narrator: The dead man, Lazarus, walked out of the tomb. His hands and feet were tied with burial cloths, and his face was still wrapped.

Jesus: Untie him and let him go.

Narrator: Many of the people who had come with Mary and saw what Jesus had done began to believe in him.



- 1 Why do Mary and Martha tell Jesus their brother is sick? How do his followers feel about Jesus going back near Jerusalem?
- 2 Who does Martha believe Jesus is? How does what Martha believes about Jesus change in the story?
- 3 How does Jesus feel about his friends? What does Jesus promise us when we face death?
- 4 Why is it important for us to hear and share the story of Jesus raising Lazarus?



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

Jesus Risks His Life to Give Life

Jesus knows that his good friends are grieving and crying out to him to help their brother. But his disciples remind Jesus how dangerous it is for him to return to Bethany. Jesus risks his life to visit his friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. Their village is only a couple of miles from Jerusalem. The news of the raising of Lazarus travels fast, and the priests and elders grow even more impatient to get rid of Jesus.

Raising Lazarus gives us a hint about Jesus' even greater future—his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. When Jesus gives his life for us, he is raised up to God's right hand. Jesus promises Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and all of us who believe in him that he will give us life with God forever. Jesus tells Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." We believe that "it is Jesus himself who on the last day will raise up those who have believed in him" (CCC, 994).



- 1 List the jobs people do that may cause them to risk their safety to protect others. Pray for God's protection for these brave men and women.
- 2 In what ways is it risky to be a Christian?
- 3 How does Jesus' example in this Sunday's Gospel give you hope or comfort?



We work for the common good. This means that we make choices that respect people of all races, religions, and nations because we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Turn to page 32 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to discover more of the reasons why working for the common good is important.

Saint Marguerite d'Youville

Patron of Widows • Universal Mother of Charity

**Montreal, Canada,
1720s**

Marguerite de Lajemmerais, the great-granddaughter of Pierre Boucher, often called the father of Canada, marries Francois d'Youville. He turns out to be a scoundrel and criminal. He stays away from home for long periods of time.



In 1730, Francois d'Youville dies, leaving Marguerite with many debts to pay.



Marguerite faced terrible hardships during her life. By age thirty, she also lost her father and four of her six children.



However, she still educated her sons and had money left over to help the poor. In 1737, she and three others made a promise to help sick poor people. They opened a home to care for them.

Many people despised Marguerite because of her husband. The women continued to risk ridicule and scorn in order to help.



Marguerite and her friends formed a religious community, the Grey Nuns. Many women joined. Marguerite was such a good manager that the Montreal hospital asked her to take over.

Marguerite would try anything to help the poor because she was certain God would help.



The Grey Nuns spread across Canada and into the United States, establishing hospitals. In 1990, Saint Marguerite was canonized by Pope John Paul II. She is the first native-born Canadian to become a saint. Her feast day is October 16.

She established the first home for orphans.

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources.



Pray

Thank you, God, for the gift of my family. I am very thankful for the love that we share. Amen.



Think

How do I show my friends and family members that I love them?



Act



Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are a close family. Spend some time with your family, taking turns telling each family member why you are thankful for him or her. Pray the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) together and thank God for the gift of each other.

Take a Risk to Give Life



Jesus took a risk when he raised Lazarus from the dead. When some of the powerful Jewish elders and teachers heard about it, they decided they would have to kill Jesus. Play the game to see how willing you are to take risks.

Directions

1. Play in pairs or threes. Cut out two sets of cards and sort them by situation (1–6).
- 2 Take turns rolling a die. Players must roll a one  to begin.
3. Pull a card from the first pile (Low Risk). Read the situation and respond. If you will take the risk the situation asks for, keep the card and place it face up in front of you. If you won't, wait until you roll a one again and take a new Low Risk card.
4. Continue play by rolling the die until you get a two . Choose a card labeled 2. Putting Myself in



Another's Shoes. State what you would do and this time give reasons for your actions. Continue in this way for levels 3, 4, 5, and 6.

5. The round is over when one player has a card from all six levels. Continue playing until everyone is finished or begin another round.



<p>1. Low Risk</p> <p>You have to wear a back brace for at least two months. You don't want to go to school with it on. What do you do?</p>	<p>1. Low Risk</p> <p>Your homeroom teacher wants you to be one of the rats in the Pied Piper play. You don't want to embarrass yourself in front of the whole school. What do you do?</p>	<p>1. Low Risk</p> <p>Some kids from school are playing soccer in the empty lot near your house. You like soccer a lot. Do you ask to join the game?</p>
<p>2. Putting Myself in Another's Shoes</p> <p>The captain of your dodgeball team tells everyone to throw the ball really hard at Sasha so he will fall in the mud. Do you obey?</p>	<p>2. Putting Myself in Another's Shoes</p> <p>Older kids on the school bus won't stop teasing a first-grader who often gets sick riding on the bus. The little kid lives near you. What do you do?</p>	<p>2. Putting Myself in Another's Shoes</p> <p>A kid who has a stammer and has a hard time learning sits next to you in class. He asks you questions in a loud whisper and other kids laugh. Do you laugh with them?</p>
<p>3. Willing to Try</p> <p>Your parish needs kids to carry trays for older people at the senior dinners. You want to stay home and play video games. What do you do?</p>	<p>3. Willing to Try</p> <p>Your sister, who is one year and three months younger than you, wants to go with you and your friends to the shopping mall. You know that she will spoil your fun. What do you say to your mother?</p>	<p>3. Willing to Try</p> <p>The sister in charge of liturgy at your parish asks you to sing with the youth choir. You like to sing, but your friends say that only show-offs want to stand in front of everyone else like that. What do you do?</p>

This Sunday's Responsorial Psalm is based on Psalm 130.

The person who writes this psalm is in a terrible situation. This kind of psalm is called a *lament*, a prayer that expresses deep sadness. It is a cry for God's help.

Read Psalm 130:1–8.

The psalmist is asking for God's **mercy** and redemption. Mercy is forgiveness that we don't deserve. Jesus saves us through his suffering and Death.

Pray together this psalm.

Leader: Today we gather to celebrate God's forgiving love.

All: Jesus, like Mary and Martha, we are your sisters and brothers. We ask for your mercy and redemption.

We Ask for God's Mercy

Leader: It is not easy to love like Jesus. Sometimes we fail. We do unloving things. But with you, there is always forgiveness and mercy.

Group 1: Sometimes we pick fights with each other.

All: Jesus, you love us and help us.

Group 2: Sometimes we give our parents and teachers trouble.

All: Jesus, you love us and help us.

Group 1: Sometimes we lie or call each other names.

All: Jesus, you love us and help us.

Group 2: Sometimes we leave people out or act mean.

All: Jesus, you love us and help us.

The leader will now invite you to add your own statements.

Leader: We come with Jesus, our brother, to ask God to forgive our sins and to help us forgive each other. Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together. **All:** Our Father...

Group 1: God forgives all who ask for his mercy.

Group 2: God gives us grace to forgive one another.



MERCY Forgiveness or compassion toward someone who has hurt us or whom may be seen as deserving punishment.

4. Joining In

When you come into homeroom in the morning, kids are huddled around one desk. Do you join them, or do you think they are talking about you?

4. Joining In

The baseball coach lets everyone try out in the spring. You resent having to play catch with kids who drop the ball every other time. Do you quit and wait for summer baseball?

4. Joining In

A new kid at school lives near you. She is getting ready for a 10K run and invites you to train with her. You're not sure your other friends would like her. What do you do?

5. Risking for Others

You get a text that says the classmate who won the school science fair cheated because her dad did all the work. You know that is not true. Do you set the record straight?

5. Risking for Others

Most kids won't play with a classmate with a health problem because she can't run. Do you suggest other ways she can join in?

5. Risking for Others

You see a popular kid steal another kid's lunch. Maybe he plans to give it back. The kid whose lunch was stolen blames the wrong person and tells the teacher. What do you do?

6. Walking in Jesus' Shoes

You like to pray! Seeing something beautiful in nature makes you praise God. Do you share this during religion class?

6. Walking in Jesus' Shoes

There's a kid who never misses a chance to trip kids in the lunchroom, even little kids. One day, you see the chance to pay him back. He's not paying attention. Do you stick out your foot as he walks past?

6. Walking in Jesus' Shoes

Your aunt is collecting money to buy an ark of animals through Heifer International. She asks you to collect for her project at your parish. Do you do it?