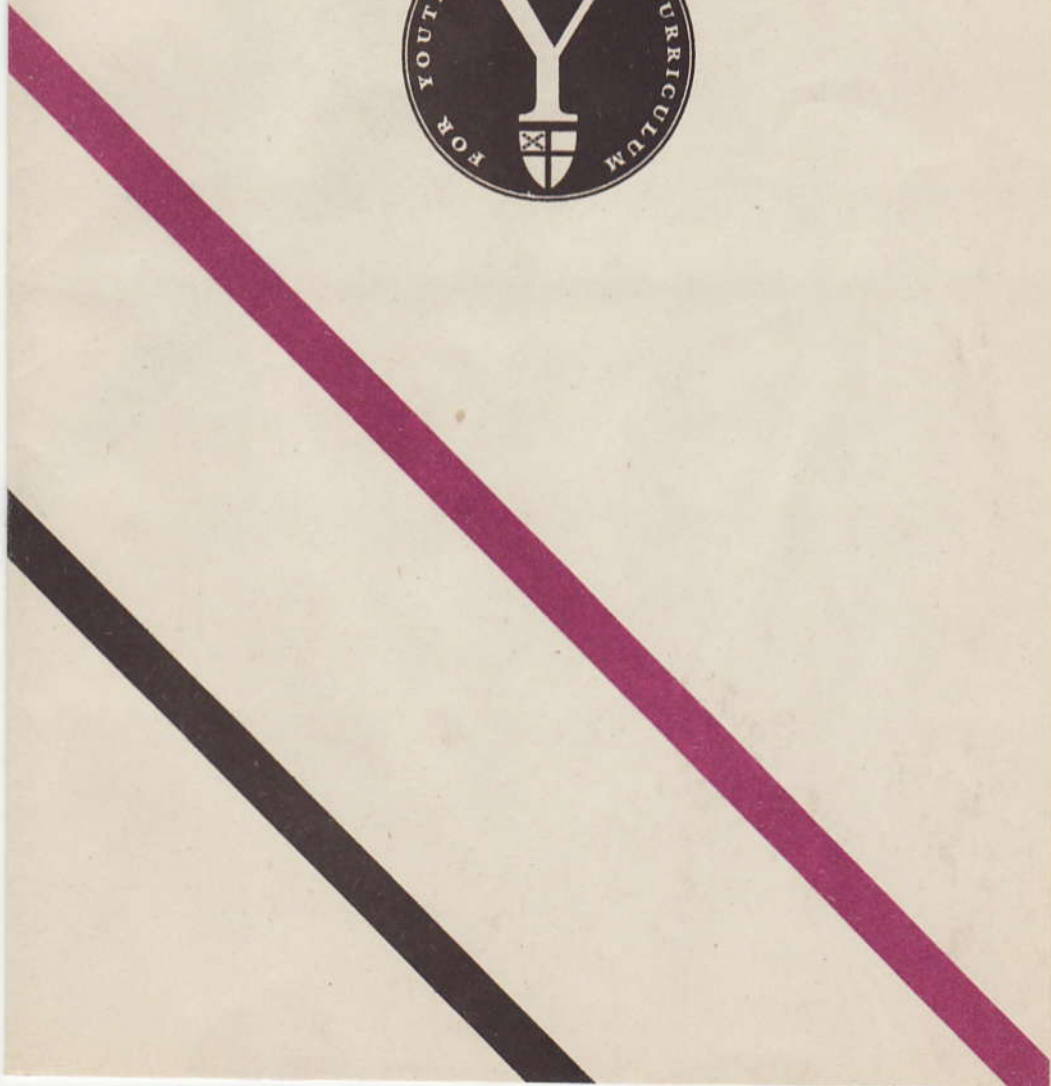


Witness in the World



1 Peter 3: 15b-16a

Always be ready to make
your defense to anyone
who demands from you an
accounting for the hope
that is in you;
yet do it with gentleness
and reverence.



Perpetua in the Arena,
Bobbi Tull

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD
SESSION 1

Perpetua: Christ or Caesar



words to remember

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

prayer Almighty God, who gave your servants Perpetua and her Companions boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Of a Martyr
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 246

COMMENTARY

We are all, at one time or another, confronted with situations in which we, as Christians, must stop, think, and do what we know is right. In many everyday situations, this can be extremely difficult. For example, when you are at school and your friends start to make fun of someone, what should you do? Even though your first instinct is to jump right in with your friends, you must stop yourself. Change the subject; tell your friends you are going to go somewhere else, and ask them to come along. It is in these situations that people like us, witnesses to Christ, can portray our Christian beliefs through our actions. It is through these actions that we, witnesses to Christ, can understand the sacrifices of Christian martyrs like Perpetua who gave their lives to Christ.

John, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear Lord, help us to understand the sacrifice Christian martyrs endured to worship you. Give us the courage to follow in their footsteps to the best of our abilities. Help us confront everyday situations with the same self-sacrifice as the martyrs. Thank you, Lord, for showing us how to be witnesses for Christ. Amen.

John, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Matthew 10:17-20
Tuesday—Matthew 10:21-22
Wednesday—John 14:26

Thursday—John 16:7-11
Friday—Luke 12:11-12
Saturday—John 15:18-21

voices



Stand fast in the faith and love one another. And do not let what we suffer be a stumbling block.

—Perpetua to her companion before her death

**Parting is all we know of heaven,
And all we need of hell.**

Emily Dickinson

**Nothing can harm a good person,
either in life or after death.**

Socrates

**Here, Lord, is my life.
I place it on the altar today.
Use it as you will.**

Albert Schweitzer



Luke 12:34

treasure is, there your
heart will be also.

For where your

SESSION 2

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD



Clare of Assisi,
Dorothy Linthicum

Clare of Assisi: Simplifying Life



words to remember

I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through [Christ] who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11b-13

prayer

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For stewardship of creation
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 259

COMMENTARY

Clare was a girl who grew up rich and holy.

She could have chosen any of the young men in her town to marry, but instead she chose to "marry" God. She devoted her life to serving God and sacrificing for him.

Not a lot of people now would go to such drastic measures to serve God. Some people teach Sunday school or become priests. That's their way of saying, "Hey God, I love you and want to serve you." Others just go to church.

Against her family's will, Clare sacrificed everything for God. Today she might be labeled a rebellious teenager.

I don't know if I would have the strength to leave everything I knew and accept a new life style. Like a flower cut from a garden and put into a vase of water, Clare left a society of richness and entered into a life of poverty.

Amanda, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear God, in her life Clare made many sacrifices for you. Help us to dedicate our lives to your name and to make our own sacrifices. Even though our losses may not be as great as those of Clare, understand that we love you no matter what.

Amanda, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Luke 1:53

Tuesday—Proverbs 20:15

Wednesday—Luke 18:24-25

Thursday—Mark 12:42-44

Friday—Luke 12:27-31

Saturday—Matthew 8:20

voices



I have often said that those who seek God while seeking other things will never find God.

Meister Eckhart (adapted)

My friends were poor but honest.

Shakespeare

We only possess what we renounce.

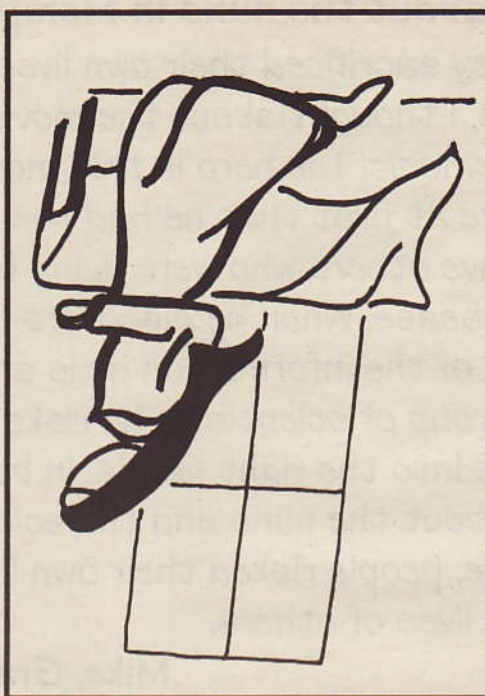
Simone Weil



John 15:13

Who one has greater
love than this, to lay
down one's life for one's
friends.

N



The Nun, Dorothy Linthicum

SESSION 3

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD

Martyrs of Memphis: Sacrifice



words to remember

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

II Corinthians 1:3-5

prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God of compassion, for the heroic witness of Constance and her companions, who, in time of plague and pestilence, were steadfast in their care for the sick and dying, and loved not their own lives, even unto death. Inspire in us a like love and commitment to those in need, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lesser Feast and Fasts p.329

COMMENTARY

In hearing about the nuns in Memphis and how they sacrificed their own lives to save others, I thought about the movie, *Johnny Mnemonic*. The hero in this movie didn't realize at first that he had the power to save others who were dying from a terrible disease. When he discovers the importance of the information he is smuggling to a group of scientists, he risks his life to get it into the right hands. In both the story about the nuns and the science fiction movie, people risked their own lives to save the lives of others.

Mike, Grade 8

Youth prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray to God my soul to keep.
If I die before I wake,
I pray to God my soul to take.
The more I trust, the more I believe,
that I should not hurt and deceive.
Although sometimes I feel I'm being used,
but rather that than to be abused.
You give me a lift, whenever I need;
Show me the gift I should feed.

Mike, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Psalm 51:16-17
Tuesday—Matthew 9:12
Wednesday—Matthew 5:7

Thursday—Psalm 91:11-12
Friday—Matthew 5:14-16
Saturday—Matthew 25:34-36

voices



I found two families—all down with the fever—who had been without a nurse for two days—one for three. They had crawled about in their misery, and helped each other. The hearses go by constantly without a single mourner—the poor are thrown into pine boxes, and buried by dozens.

Sister Constance

The fever called 'Living' is conquered at last.

Edgar Allen Poe

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve:

To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to ask for any reward

Save that of knowing that we do your will.

Ignatius of Loyola



Luke 12:22-23

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.”

He said to his disciples,



SESSION 4

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD

Terry Waite: Captive for Christ



words to remember

If you are to be taken captive,
into captivity you go; . . .
Here is a call for the endurance and
faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:10

prayer O God our Father,
whose Son forgave
his enemies while he was suffering
shame and death: Strengthen those who
suffer for the sake of conscience; when
they are accused, save them from speak-
ing in hate; when they are rejected, save
them from bitterness; when they are
imprisoned, save them from despair; and
to us your servants, give grace to respect
their witness and to discern the truth, that
our society may be cleansed and strength-
ened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus
Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge.
Amen.

For those who suffer for the sake of Conscience
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 823

COMMENTARY

"Fighting for what's right and risking yourself to do so."

We certainly admire people who do just that. We consider them religious, saintly, and closely connected to God. We'd love to think of ourselves that way, too—but how?

Personally, I like to think of myself as a religious person, but I've never had the opportunity to fight to free hostages in Iran or sacrifice my freedom for the freedom of others.

But there are things that most of us can do to help others even when it involves a risk of our health, safety, and freedom.

For teenagers, especially, the situation becomes evident in school. When popularity becomes more important at this age, it's easy to leave people out. When a person is excluded socially, they become trapped—no where to go, all alone (much like the people that Waite worked to free). It takes a person who is willing to take the risk of being socially less acceptable to make an extra effort to include a lonely person.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear God,

We pray that we may have the courage to help others in need, that your will may be done through us. We ask that we will be willing to risk ourselves for good knowing that you will be with us. Amen.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Matthew 25:36

Tuesday—Isaiah 61:1

Wednesday—Matthew 5:11-12

Thursday—Hebrews 12:1

Friday—Ephesians 6:19-20

Saturday—Psalm 37:7-8

Voices



Somehow deep within lies the secret of my survival. It lies beyond family, beyond friends, beyond simple desires and hopes. Somehow, somehow, I must touch the mystery that is God.

I plaited . . . the shapes of a cross and secured it to a wall. This symbol of suffering and hope gives me a focus in my drab prison. The Christian message of redemption through suffering is hard to grasp, and even harder to live! I pray for release from both physical restraints and my inner blindness.

Each day I have walked through the Psalmist's valley. The shadow of death has been around me. Then, for a space, I have caught a glimpse of the warmth of light, and the shadow has receded. [Christ] spoke so simply and so profoundly about the essential fundamentals of life.

Terry Waite (in captivity)

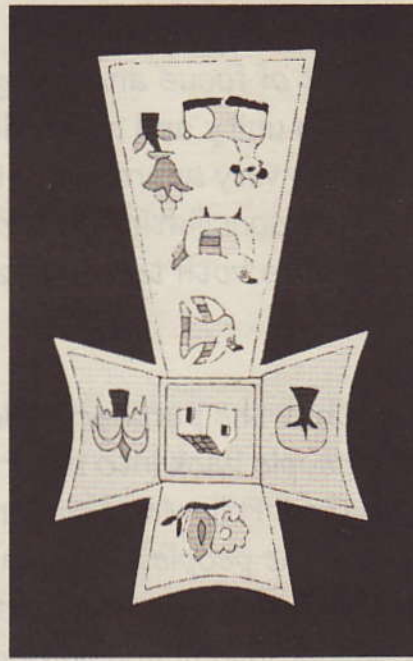
I believe in the sun when it is not shining.

I believe in love where feeling is not
I believe in God even if he is silent.

Anonymous victim of the holocaust



Original art from El Salvador



John 17:22

he glory that you have
given me I have given them,
so that they may be one, as
we are one.



SESSION 5
WITNESSES IN THE WORLD

Taize: Unity and Reconciliation

words to remember

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:18

prayer

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who live and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For the Unity of the Church
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 255

COMMENTARY

The *community of Taize* puts a tremendous amount of focus and energy on the idea of Christian unity and reconciliation. Reconciliation seems very appropriate in this instance. I think of reconciliation as a return to harmony, which relates both to the Taize community and Jesus.

Many people feel that the purpose of Jesus was to bring the people back into a harmonious relationship with God. Following the same idea, Brother Roger and the people of the Taize community feel that they can bring different people of the world together into peace through the focused worship of God and Christ.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Dear God,
Help us to develop and return to harmonious relationships with you through our own prayers and worship. We ask you, moreover, to help us unite as your people with Christianity as our common thread to worship you. Amen.

Elizabeth, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Romans 5:10-11
Tuesday—Colossians 1:20
Wednesday—Psalm 133:1

Thursday—Ephesians 4:13
Friday—Colossians 3:13
Saturday—Ephesians 4:15-16

voices



O God, we do not desire new contentions and discord. We pray only that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who for us died and rose from the grave, will guide us, that all of us who are in many churches and many communions may be one Church, one Communion, and one in him.

Philip Melancthon

O God, help us not to despise or oppose what we do not understand.

William Penn

See how these Christians love one another.

Tertullian



1 Corinthians 9:23

do it all for the sake of the
gospel, so that I may share
in its blessings.



Communications Resources
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SESSION 6

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD

C.S. Lewis: Presenting the Gospel



words to remember

With many such parables he spoke
the word to them, as they were able
to hear it.

Mark 4:33

prayer O God, by your Holy Spirit you give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word of knowledge, and to others the word of faith: We praise your Name for the gifts of grace manifested in your servant, C. S. Lewis, and we pray that your Church may never be destitute of such gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Of a Theologian and Teacher
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 248*

COMMENTARY

God in Literature

The way C. S. Lewis has written the Chronicles of Narnia has captured the attention of both children and adults. What captured my attention is that Aslan, in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, is the spitting image of God. Similar to God, Aslan breathed out and created the world with all these beings. Then Aslan died and came back to life on the table cracked in half where he bore his pain—just like our Lord Jesus was resurrected and forgave our sins.

Mike, Grade 8

Youth prayer

He will come, he will come.
He will come and protect me from all snares and perils of the night.
He will come to breathe the breath of life in my soul.
He shall die for me and save me, and so, I shall live.
He will come. He will come in a form that will vanquish all evil from the earth and protect me.
And so, I shall live.

Mike, Grade 8

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Psalm 78:2-4

Tuesday—Matthew 13:34

Wednesday—Psalm 105:1-2

Thursday—Proverbs 1:5-6

Friday—Luke 21:15

Saturday—Jeremiah 31:33

voices



Against the disease of writing one must take special precautions, since it is a dangerous and contagious disease.

Peter Abelard

In every man's writings, the character of the writer must lie recorded.

Goethe

All work is as seed sown; it grows and spreads, and sows itself anew.

James Boswell



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And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

A

SESSION 7

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD

Le Chambon: Helping Strangers



words to remember

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

prayer

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Social Justice
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 260

COMMENTARY

World War II was a terrible time in which to live.

People, just like you and me, were mercilessly killed and imprisoned just for being different. Among all this death and destruction, many rays of hope, special people who knew what was happening was not right, sprung up. One of these rays was the town of Le Chambon in France.

The people in Le Chambon hid 5,000 Jews in homes and other various locations around the town. Even when the Germans invaded the town, knocking on doors and demanding that Jews be turned over, the townspeople protected the Jews. By doing this, the residents put themselves in grave danger. Why did this community risk so much? The only thing I can figure out is that they had an extraordinary faith in God and that God would take care of them.

We should strive in our own lives to have as much faith and compassion as the people of Le Chambon. Like these people, we can realize how much we are blessed and reach out to help those who are in need.

Kate, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Almighty God,

I thank you for all of the blessings and gifts that you have endowed me with. I realize how fortunate I am compared to others. I hope that, with your infinite wisdom and guidance, I may help people in my daily life who need assistance. Let me help others attain the blessings in their lives that I have been given so generously in mine. In your name, Amen.

Kate, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Ephesians 2:12

Tuesday—Hebrews 13:3

Wednesday—Romans 12:13

Thursday—Ruth 1:16-17

Friday—Numbers 15:14-16

Saturday—Deuteronomy 26:5-11

voices



The Holocaust was storm, lightning, thunder, wind, rain, yes. Le Chambon was the rainbow. You have been speaking about the village that saved the lives of all three of my children.

Holocaust survivor

Faith works on earth. I do not know about heaven.

Andre Trocme

If you stand firmly opposed to overwhelming destructive power, you expose yourself to destruction.

Philip Hallie

In remembrance resides the secret of redemption.

Rabbi Baal Shem-Tov



Ephesians 2:14

For he is our peace; in his
flesh he has made both
groups into one and has
broken down the dividing
wall, that is, the hostility
between us

F

SESSION 8

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD



Susan Shillinglaw

Desmond Tutu: Peace and Justice



words to remember

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn.

Isaiah 61:1-2

prayer

Look with pity,
O heavenly Father, upon the people in
this land who live with injustice, terror,
disease, and death as their constant
companions. Have mercy upon us.
Help us to eliminate our cruelty to
these our neighbors. Strengthen those
who spend their lives establishing
equal protection of the law and equal
opportunities for all. And grant that
every one of us may enjoy a fair por-
tion of the riches of this land; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Oppressed

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 826

COMMENTARY

Justice and equality for everyone.

This is what Archbishop Desmond Tutu, leader of the Anglican Church in South Africa, believes with his whole heart. He advocates the power of Scripture to change people's lives. He feels that all people are equal, and should be treated that way. While struggling against his country's horrible apartheid movement, he sustained his faith through the Church. By his energy and unending belief in good triumphing over evil, he is an inspiration to all people as a model of strength, love, and determination.

Kate, Grade 9

Youth prayer

Almighty God, we pray that one day all oppression will be lifted, all abominations will be abolished, and all of your children will be able to join hands, exalting and rejoicing in your name: one voice, all equal under your judgement. Amen.

Kate, Grade 9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday—Isaiah 50:4
Tuesday—Jeremiah 17:8
Wednesday—Isaiah 50:6

Thursday—Psalm 126:5-6
Friday—Isaiah 50:8-9
Saturday—Psalm 120:1-2

voices



Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

To free oneself is nothing; it's being free that is hard.

André Gide

**God bless Africa.
Guard her children,
guide her rulers,
And give her peace,
for Jesus Christ's sake.**

Bishop Trevor Huddleson



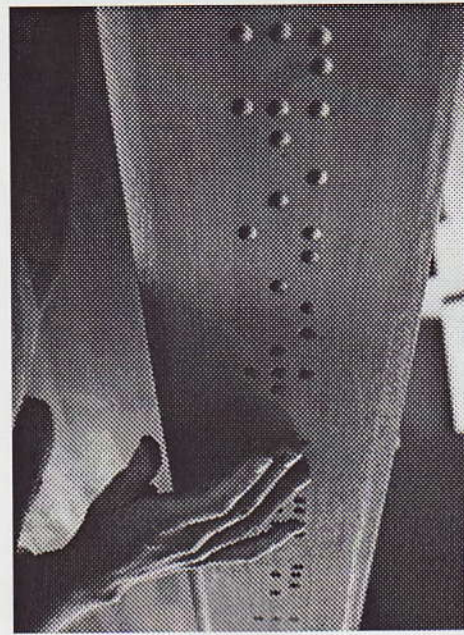
Leviticus 19:15

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.



SESSION 9

WITNESSES IN THE WORLD



Christophe Moustier, 2005

L'Arche: Welcoming the Disabled



words to remember

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12

prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For Social Service
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 260

COMMENTARY

The Beauty of Life

Sunshine
Fills the empty space
That used to dwell
Inside of me.
What I used to worry about
Means nothing.
My mind is no longer captive.
I can finally accept
Who I am.

I notice wonderful qualities
Of others.
I can see the beauty
Of their spirits and their souls.
I see these qualities
For I have listened to God.
I finally know
The true beauty
Of God's creation.

Nancy, Grade 7

Youth prayer

O God.

Help me to see the beauty of every living creature.
Let me use your love to see the wonderful qualities
that each of us possesses. You have helped me so that
I know now that no one's life is meaningless. O God,
help me to teach another about love, friendship,
forgiveness. Help me to forget my troubled thoughts so
I may know the true beauty of all your creation. Amen.

Nancy, Grade 7

DAILY DEVOTIONS

reflections

Monday – Romans 12:15-16 Thursday – Micah 6:8
Tuesday – Matthew 5:3-6 Friday – Isaiah 40:31
Wednesday – Revelation 21:4 Saturday – Ecclesiastes 3:4

voices



Dearest Lord, may I see you today
and every day in the person of your
sick, and whils't nursing them minis-
ter to you.

Mother Teresa

When the day returns,
Call us with morning faces, and with
morning hearts,
eager to labour,
happy if happiness be our portion,
and if the day is marked for sorrow,
strong to endure.

Robert Louis Stevenson

"My question is neither confusing
nor irrelevant," rejoined the rabbi,
"for if you do not know what hurts
me, how can you truly love me?"

Madeleine L'Engle

