

The CIRCLE of LIFE JOURNEY

Session 4
Respect for All,
Including the
Marginalized



As we continue our CIRCLE OF LIFE
JOURNEY let us turn our attention to . . .

those on the MARGINS



of the Seamless Garment

Those who are

Feared

Scorned

Hated

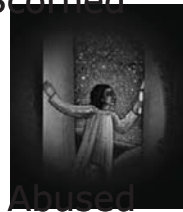
Ridiculed

Abused

Avoided

Rejected

Neglected



. . . or treated with

indifference

. . . by being among
the nameless,
and faceless

distant masses
of humanity . . .



When we celebrate the Feast of the
SACRED HEART OF JESUS



We celebrate His
compassionate
love for all people,
including
the marginalized,
the outcasts,
the lost . . .

"The lost
I will seek out,
the strayed
I will bring back,
the injured
I will bind up,
the sick
I will heal . . ."

Ezekiel 34:16



*Let us reflect on all the ways
Jesus reached out
with **COMPASSION**
to the
MARGINALIZED
of his time
and place . . .*



to the blind . . .

*They brought to him
a blind man and begged him
to touch him.*

Mark 8:22

. . . the lame

*Jesus said to him,
"Rise, take up
your mat,
and walk."*

John 5:8



. . . the leper

*Moved with pity,
he stretched out his hand,
touched him . . .*

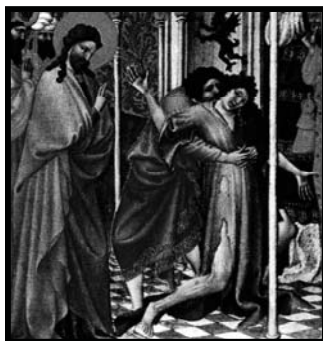
Mark 1:41



. . . the
possessed

*"Teacher, I have brought to you my son
possessed by a mute spirit."*

Mark 9:17



. . . .the tax
collector

*"Zacchaeus,
come down quickly,
for today I must stay
at your house."*

Luke 19:5



The Woman Caught in Adultery



. . . the scorned

"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 8:7

. . . the overlooked



"If I but touch the hem of his garment, I will be made whole."

Mark 5:28

The Woman at the Well



. . . the shunned

"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

John 4:9

The Good Samaritan



. . . the despised

"But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight."

Luke 10:33

. . . the lost

" . . . he was lost and has been found."

Luke 15:32



. . . and the masses

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:38



"Jesus feeds the multitudes"

"If I look at the mass
I will never act.
If I look at the one,
I will."

Mother Teresa

COMPASSION is
a movement of the heart
to respond to one who is suffering.



a spontaneous desire to help
and to let the one suffering
know that she/he is not alone.

Because we recognize the
dignity of every
HUMAN PERSON,

We are called
to reach out in
COMPASSION
to the
MARGINALIZED.

*Respect for all,
including the
MARGINALIZED*



*Who are the
MARGINALIZED
of our time and place?*



Be gracious to me, LORD,
for I am in distress;
with grief my eyes are wasted,
my soul and body spent.



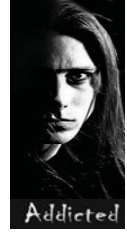
Psalms 31:10

My life is worn out
by sorrow,
my years by sighing.
My strength
fails in affliction;
my bones are consumed.



Psalm 31:11

To all my foes
I am a thing of scorn,
to my neighbors,
a dreaded sight,
a horror to my friends.



Psalm 31:12

When they see me
in the street,
they quickly
shy away.



Psalm 31:12

I am forgotten,
out of mind
like the dead;

Psalm 31:13



I am like a shattered dish.

Psalm 31:13



I hear the whispers
of the crowd;
terrors are all
around me.

They conspire
against me;
they plot
to take my life.

Psalm 31:14



*What is it like
to be marginalized,
hated,
ridiculed,
despised?*

Persons all around you
face this challenge
every single day,
because they have a
homosexual orientation.

When compared to
other social groups,
persons with
a homosexual orientation
are still among the
most stigmatized groups
in the nation

- Rejected by family members
- Hate crimes & gay-bashing
- Taunted & humiliated in schools
- Banned from the military
- Fearful of discrimination in
the workplace
- Long-term relationships
not legally recognized



In a brutal attack,
Matthew Shepard was
tied to a split-rail fence,
tortured, beaten
and pistol-whipped
by his attackers,
while he begged for his life.

When found . . .
his face was
caked with blood,
except where it
had been partially
washed clean by tears.



Blessed are you
when people hate you,
and when they
exclude and insult you,
and denounce
your name as evil
on account of
the Son of Man.



Luke 6:22

What the Church Teaches:

The Church recognizes
the dignity of
EVERY HUMAN BEING



regardless of
sexual orientation . . .

Church teaching shows a special concern
regarding prejudice shown
to homosexual persons.



"Mindful of the inherent and abiding
dignity of every human person . . .
homosexual persons,
like everyone else,
should not suffer from prejudice
against their basic
human rights."

"They have
a right to
respect,
friendship,
and justice.



They should have
an active role
in the
Christian community."



"It is deplorable that
homosexual persons
have been and are
the object of
violent malice
in speech, or in action.

Such treatment
deserves condemnation
from the Church's pastors
wherever it occurs."

The Church calls
all homosexual persons,
like their single
heterosexual counterparts,
to be chaste,
that is, sexually appropriate
for their uncommitted,
unmarried state in life.



Various Church documents
acknowledge that
this may be a difficult challenge,
even a lifelong cross
to carry.



This is particularly true since heterosexual couples may anticipate marriage-to-come,



while for gay or lesbian couples such a future sacramental union is not available.



At the same time, the Church's leaders challenge the so-called "straight" or heterosexual majority to take its own moral pulse, to remove the plank of prejudice and/or self-righteousness from our own eyes.



As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,



Colossians 3:12

clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Growing our COMPASSION into SOLIDARITY

Solidarity includes compassion, but it is more . . .

Our participation in the body of Christ calls us to action for "the least among us" without regard for boundaries or borders.



Solidarity is not only a spontaneous movement of the heart that responds immediately,

but also a decision to take action to join with, to form community with, those who are suffering.



Those who reach out
to offer help
quickly begin to realize
that their own humanity
is being fostered
in new ways.



Solidarity also includes
a kind of mutuality
that goes both ways
in respect and accountability
when the
relationship grows.



Solidarity . . . is not a feeling
of vague compassion
or shallow distress
at the misfortunes
of so many people,
both near and far. . . .



Pope John Paul II
On Social Concern

On the contrary,
it is a *firm and persevering
determination to commit oneself
to the common good . . .*

. . . to the good of all
and of each individual,
because we are all
really responsible
for all."

Pope John Paul II
On Social Concern

"If I look at the mass
I will never act.
If I look at the one,
I will."

Mother Teresa

Where shall we begin?



OUR PRAYER

We pray
for growing compassion,
for an end of prejudice,
for the respect
of all human beings
and their rights.

We pray intentionally
for restoration of the fullness of life
for all peoples,
especially those
most marginalized . . .



for Tim

For more information:

PFLAG Tucson
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
<http://www.pflagtucson.org/>

Fortunate Families
Catholic Families with Lesbian Daughters and Gay Sons
<http://www.fortunatefamilies.com/>

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