What is Community?

The Church says we are not created by God to live alone, but destined to live in community with one another and with God. Community is something that we also must work together to develop. Each of us may be called to do this differently.

Participating in community means helping those who need help, including the sick. Participating in community means doing the right thing in the right places. Participating in community means joining our church to celebrate the feasts of our faith. It means celebrating important times with other people. It means being a responsible citizen.

During the fall-spring seasons, our parish volunteers at St Joseph’s Hospitality Centre to build our community in London.

What are some simple things you could do to build up the community, within the parish? Within your home? Within your school? Within your neighbourhood? List or draw them below.

“Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother.”

Mark 3:35
Gospel: Mark 3:20-26, 31-35

Jesus went back home, and once again such a large crowd gathered that there was no chance even to eat. When Jesus’ family heard what he was doing, they thought he was crazy and went to get him under control.

Some teachers of the Law of Moses came from Jerusalem and said, “This man is under the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons! He is even forcing out demons with the help of Beelzebul.”

Jesus told the people to gather around him. Then he spoke to them in riddles and said: “How can Satan force himself out? A nation whose people fight each other won’t last very long. And a family that fights against itself, that will be the end of him.

Jesus’ mother and brothers came and stood outside. Then they sent someone with a message for him to come out to them. The crowd that was sitting around Jesus told him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside and want to see you.”

Jesus asked, “Who is my mother and who are my brothers?” Then he looked at the people sitting around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who obeys God is my brother or sister or mother.”

Gospel Reflection

I wonder how Jesus felt when his family thought he was crazy...

I wonder how Jesus felt when so many people were gathered to see him...

I wonder why Jesus calls anyone who obeys God his brother or sister or mother...

While he was on earth, Jesus was part of Mary and Joseph’s family. Jesus cared for his human family, but he said that those who hear about and obey God are his family too. If you have put your trust in him, you are God’s child, and Jesus calls you his brother or sister.

Jesus show us how family is not always necessarily our direct family members, but it can also be the community we surround ourselves with. What does family look like to you? Who is your family?

Write or draw your family and/or community on the tree. Make sure to include Jesus!