

# VENTURE

October 16, 2022  
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## What Do I Really Want?

Physical	Talents	Qualities	Security	Possessions
<b>A1</b>  Good looks	<b>B1</b>  Sports	<b>C1</b>  Popular	<b>D1</b>  Friends	<b>E1</b>  Bike
<b>A2</b>  Straight teeth	<b>B2</b>  Speaking	<b>C2</b>  Loyal	<b>D2</b>  Safe School	<b>E2</b>  Money
<b>A3</b>  Height	<b>B3</b>  Writing	<b>C3</b>  Funny	<b>D3</b>  Close Family	<b>E3</b>  Cell Phone
<b>A4</b>  Great Hair	<b>B4</b>  Coding	<b>C4</b>  Smart	<b>D4</b>  Close to God	<b>E4</b>  Cool Clothes
<b>A5</b>  Fit Body	<b>B5</b>  Music	<b>C5</b>  Responsible	<b>D5</b>  Safe Neighborhood	<b>E5</b>  Pet(s)

Circle the three things you most want for yourself. Your teacher will draw one square from a container and read the number aloud. Ask yourself if you can live without that particular physical trait, talent, quality, security,

or possession. If you can, cross it out. If you cannot live without it, circle that square.

When you have a line of circled or crossed-out squares, call BINGO! Read your line aloud to your class and be ready to explain your choices.



# The MONEY Exchange

**Marty crossed the street to the edge of the school playground.** His eyes focused on a patch of green paper caught up in the leaves by the fence. He knelt down, picked up the paper, and then looked at it in surprise. “Wow! A twenty-dollar bill!”

“What did you find?” Marty turned at the sound of the voice. He stared into the eyes of Justin Benson, the biggest and toughest kid in the sixth grade.

“Nothing,” said Marty, trying to hide the money behind his back.

“Nothing, huh!” snapped Justin. He reached around Marty and grabbed hold of his wrist.

“Ow!” yelled Marty. Justin twisted Marty’s wrist, forcing him to release his grip.

Justin snatched the bill from Marty. “Well, what do you know? This is the money I lost here yesterday.”

“You’re a liar!” Marty shouted.

Justin grabbed Marty by the front of his shirt. “Who are you calling a liar?” he yelled.

Marty didn’t answer. He just stood there watching Justin shove the money into his pocket and walk away.

Marty looked up to see his friend Dylan coming to meet him across the playground. He told Dylan what had happened.

Dylan just shook his head. “That’s annoying, Marty. But if you tell our principal, Justin will just say he was the one who found the money. Then what can Ms. Walsh do?”

“Yeah, I know.”

“And then Justin will really be out to get you.”

**Later, as Marty sat at his desk in the fifth-grade classroom, he was still angry about what happened.** When the teacher

asked him the main crop of Brazil, he answered, “Money,” and the whole class laughed. Marty buried his head in his hands. Justin Benson was ruining his day.

Minutes later, Emily Chase entered the room and sat next to Marty. He saw that her eyes were red from crying. He leaned over and whispered, “are you OK? Where have you been? I thought you were absent.”

Emily looked at Marty. “I’ve been in Ms. Walsh’s office. I lost the twenty dollars I had from the candy sale on my way to school this morning. Ms. Walsh said nobody brought my lost money to the office and that it probably won’t be returned.”

**At lunchtime, Marty could hardly wait to find Dylan and tell him about Emily.** When Marty finished, Dylan asked, “So what are you going to do?”

“I don’t know,” said Marty. “You know what Justin will do if you tell Ms. Walsh what happened?”

“Don’t remind me.”

“He’s going to beat you up, and he’s going to tell everyone you’re a liar.”

“I know, but that’s Emily’s money.”

The boys finished eating and headed for the playground. Marty looked at all the kids running around. It didn’t take him long to spot Justin, talking to a group of boys.

**Marty tapped Dylan on the arm.** “I’ve got an idea, but I’ll need your help.”

“Sure. What do you want me to do?”

“Go over there and stand by the playground teacher. I’ll be with Justin. As soon as you see something happening, make sure the playground teacher sees us.”

Dylan’s eyes got big. “Are you sure you know what you’re doing?”

Marty didn’t answer. He headed toward Justin. As he got near, he could hear Justin bragging about winning some game.

Marty interrupted, “Justin, where’s that twenty-dollar bill you took away from me this morning?”

**Justin turned on Marty and snarled, “Get lost.”**

“I’m not going anywhere until you give me my twenty bucks!”

Justin shoved Marty. “I told you to get lost!”

Marty raised his voice a notch. “I want my money!”

Justin grabbed Marty by the shirt. “I warned you once, punk!”

Marty punched Justin in the stomach, grabbed his arms, and held on. In seconds, they were wrestling on the ground with Justin on top. By the time Justin got his arm free to hit Marty, help had arrived.

“All right, you two,” said the playground teacher. “You’re coming with me to the principal’s office.”

**Inside the principal’s office Ms. Walsh got right to the point.** “What’s this all about?”

“There was a twenty-dollar bill in the leaves by the school fence this morning,” Marty said.

“That’s right,” said Justin, “and I found it.”

“You did?” Ms. Walsh asked. “Yes.”

Ms. Walsh stared at Justin. “Emily Chase came to me this

morning in tears. She lost twenty dollars on her way to school,” she said.

Justin sat with his mouth open. Ms. Walsh held out her hand. Justin reached into his pocket and handed her the money.

“Now go back to your classes,” said Ms. Walsh. “And no more fighting on the playground.”

**Dylan saw Marty outside after school.** “You made Emily’s day, Marty. And no one can accuse you of being a liar!”

Marty smiled. “Let’s take a different way home today,” he suggested. Marty’s day was looking brighter. *Still*, he thought, *it won’t hurt to keep out of Justin Benson’s way for a while.*

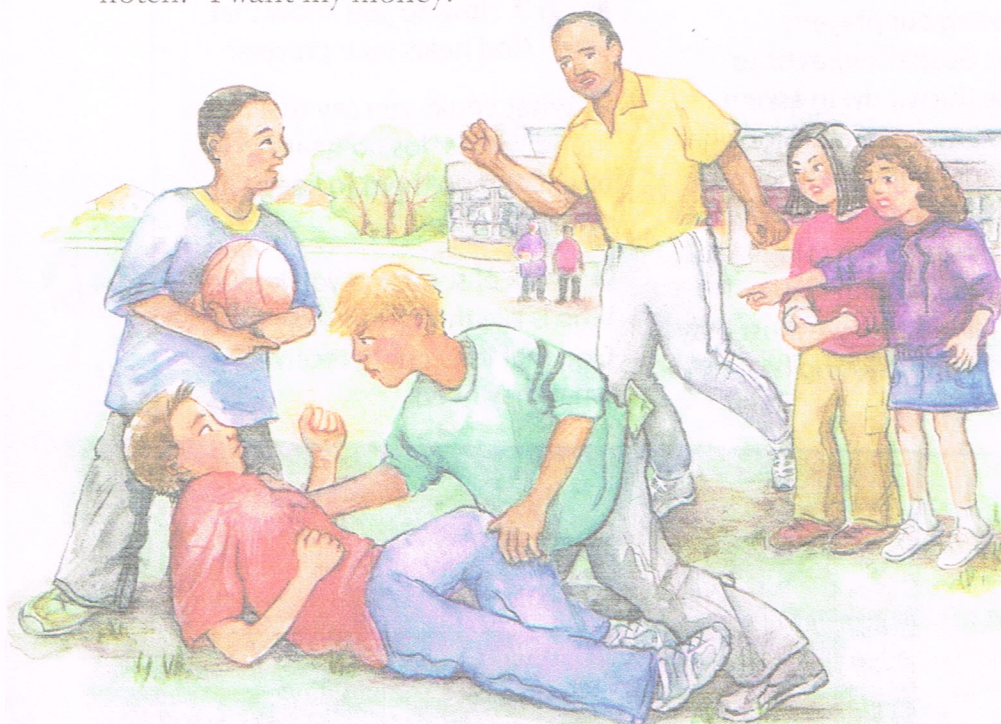


**1** Why does Dylan tell Marty to give up on getting the money back from Justin?

**2** Why does Marty decide not to give up on getting the money back from Justin?

**3** How does Marty take a risk by tricking Justin into doing the right thing with the money?

**4** Turn to the chart on the cover. What might you risk by standing up for someone else (column D)? What talents or qualities could help you stand up for others (columns B and C)?



# SUNDAY GOSPEL

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:1-8

## Jesus Tells Us to Keep Asking

**Narrator:** Jesus told this story to show his disciples that they should never get discouraged about praying.

**Jesus:** Once there was a judge who didn't fear God or respect other people. In the same town lived a widow who kept coming to this judge and asking him to give her her rights.

**Widow:** Please protect me from those who are trying to cheat me!

**Jesus:** For a long time the judge ignored the widow. But she kept after him.

**Widow:** Please protect me! I demand my rights.

**Judge:** I don't fear God or care about what people think, but this widow keeps bothering me! I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will just keep asking and asking and finally wear me out.

**Jesus:** Notice how this dishonest judge acted. Don't you think then that God will do justice for people who cry out to God day and night? Will God be slow to answer them? No, he will answer them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, do you think he will find people on earth who believe in him?



### THINK

- 1 What kind of person is the judge? The widow? Why does the judge give the widow her rights?
- 2 How is God like the judge? How is the judge different from God? How is the widow like Marty?
- 3 What does the widow teach us about how to pray, to talk with God about what we need?

### Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

Asking God for our needs is the point of Sunday's Gospel. The widow in Jesus' story gets what she needs by wearing down the unjust judge. The crooked judge has little reason to care about protecting the widow's rights but settles in her favor just to get rid of her and her constant requests.

Jesus' story shows us that God will be better than

an indifferent judge about answering our prayers.

This Gospel invites us to imitate the widow in asking always and repeatedly for what we need. Asking for what we need or want through **prayer** helps us see which things and people really matter to us. Jesus tells us that we must pray always without losing heart (CCC, 2098).

## Pray Without Losing Heart

- 1 How do you know that God hears your prayers?
- 2 What could you say to a friend who is "losing heart" to encourage them to keep praying?
- 3 Think of someone you know who is like the widow. Pray to God that they might receive what they need.

### Catholic FAITH WORD

**PRAYER** Lifting up of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from him.

#### VENTURE



How many times do you talk with (or message) your closest friends or family members each day? Can you imagine a day in which you did not talk with them at all? It is the same with God. Prayer is the way in which we talk with God and listen to him. Turn to page 39 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches* to explore why regular prayer is so important.

# Moses Serves as a Mediator

**F**or this Sunday's reading from the Old Testament, the Church picks a story about Moses (Exodus 17:8–13, in blue box, right). Moses is Israel's greatest leader. One of his jobs is to be a mediator, a communicator between God and his people.



God speaks to Moses from a burning bush and calls him to lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. Moses asks God's name and God tells him, "I AM who I am" (Exodus 3:14).

God then tells Moses to tell the Israelites that "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations" (15). Those who know God's name can call on him and ask for help. This is a power that a mediator needs.

At first, Moses doesn't like his job very much. It means going to see Pharaoh, the ruler of all Egypt, one of the most powerful leaders in the ancient world. Moses stutters, so he doesn't want to be the one to talk to Pharaoh. God lets Moses take his brother Aaron along. God puts the words Moses needs in his mouth.

**T**ogether, Moses and Aaron threaten Pharaoh with ten plagues in order to talk him

into letting the Hebrew slaves go free. The Nile River turns to blood. Swarms of gnats, flies, boils, and frogs infest the land. In the ninth plague, darkness covers the land.

Pharaoh doesn't let the slaves go until the tenth plague, when the angel of God kills the firstborn son of every family, but passes over the homes of the slaves who have put the blood of lambs on their doors.

Pharaoh regrets letting his slaves go, so he sends his army after them. The soldiers chase the slaves toward the Red Sea, trying to corner them. Moses tells the people that God will fight for them. God tells Moses to raise his staff, stretch out his hand, and divide the waters of the sea.

Moses does as God commands, and a dry path for the slaves opens through the sea. When the soldiers follow, Moses stretches out his hand again and the waters return and drown the soldiers.

## Moses Prays for Victory

**In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel.**

Moses said to Joshua, "Pick out certain men.

Tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses told him; he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur.

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight. Moses grew tired, so Aaron and Hur put a rock in place for him to sit on. They supported Moses's hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady until sunset. And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of his sword.

Exodus 17:8–13

**How does Moses serve as mediator in the battle with Amalek?**

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**What is the work of a mediator between God and the people?**

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Take care, then, to partake of one Eucharist; for, one is the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one the cup to unite us with his Blood, and one altar . . . Thus you will conform in all your actions to the will of God.  
—Saint Ignatius of Antioch

**FAMILIES:**  
Read a reflection on this quote.



# Learn How to Pray

**Prayer means talking to God in a way similar to how we talk to people.** We can tell God our worries and our hopes. We can praise God for the beauties of the world just as we would praise a friend who makes something beautiful.

We can thank God for all that we have—our lives, health, brains, eyes, ears, noses, family, friends, and fun.

We can ask God for what we and others need. We can pray for those who are sick. We can pray for people who suffer from hunger or war.

**The widow in Sunday's Gospel gives us an example of this kind of prayer.** The widow keeps asking for what she wants until she gets it.

Prayer also can be a conversation with God about starting over when we've done something wrong. Sometimes we still feel bad even after we say we're sorry for acting mean or letting down a friend or a parent. When this happens, we can ask God's forgiveness.

**This activity gives you prayers from Scripture to use until you write your own.**



Use this code to name the kind of prayer in each box.

A = ● E = ■ I = ★ O = ✨ S = ▲ U = ◆

Q ◆ ■ ▲ T ★ ✨ N ▲

If I will be found guilty,  
why should I keep trying?  
Job 9:29

Why do you stay far away, God?  
Why do you pay no attention  
when I am in trouble?  
Psalm 10:1

**God, I want to ask you why**

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T H ● N K ▲

I will give you thanks, O God, with all my heart;  
I will tell about all your wonderful works.  
Psalm 9:2

It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praise  
to your name most high. To proclaim your  
constant love at dawn and your faithfulness  
through the night.  
Psalm 92:1-3

**Thank you, God, for**

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**ONWARD**

Fear not, I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name;  
you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

Our God judges in favor of the oppressed  
and gives them their rights.

Psalm 103:6

Oh, God, you search me and you know me.  
You know when I sit and when I stand.  
You understand my thoughts from afar.

Psalm 139:1-2

**I can trust God because**

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**P T T N**

Teach me, LORD, your way that I may  
walk in your truth, dedicated and  
praising your name.

Psalm 86:11

LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry  
come to you.

Psalm 102:1

**God, please**

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**PRRY**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
because you are so good. Your  
compassion takes away my sins.

Psalm 51:3

We have sinned like our ancestors; we  
have done wrong and we are guilty.

Psalm 106:6

**Forgive me, God, for**

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**PR**

I praise you because I am so wonderfully  
made. Wonderful are all your works, O God.

Psalm 139:14

Nights and days, bless the Lord,  
light and darkness, bless our God,  
water creatures, birds, and all you beasts  
bless our God,

all human beings, bless the Lord.

Praise him above all forever.

Daniel 3:71-72, 79-82

**I praise you, God, for**

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There are six kinds of prayer. After you solve the six puzzles, turn to pages 40-42 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*. Your teacher will arrange your class into small groups and ask each group to read about one kind of prayer. Then your group will present that prayer to the rest of the class.

# 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.



You cheat everyone.

Selling liquor to the native people is illegal.

Who cares? It makes money.

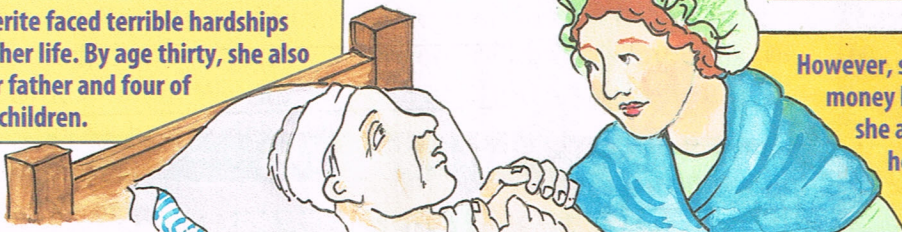
I hate it.

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



Don't worry, boys. I'll pay the bills and send you to school.

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.



The drunken sisters. Ha! Ha!

There's d'Youville and the "Soeurs Grises."

You're wrong! Marguerite and her Grey Nuns are good!

## With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources or go to [gospelweeklies.com/family](http://gospelweeklies.com/family)



### Pray

Lord, I will try harder to pray often and not get discouraged when I don't hear your answer right away. I will be patient and persistent in my conversations with you. Amen.

### Think

What do I pray for?

### Act

With your parents, set a time for your family to gather for prayer every day this week. Ask each member of your family to take a turn choosing a prayer for you to pray together. Close your prayer time with the Lord's Prayer and a sign of peace.

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.



She taught their children about the Catholic faith.

She bought farms for the poor.

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.

Mother Marguerite, the sick are at our doors. Some are contagious. What shall we do?

Admit them all. Turn no one away.

She established the first home for orphans.