



WE ARE CHURCH International

Saturday 12 July 2025

Building society, building the Church, building the Kingdom today in our diverse and fractured world

Welcome and news

Celebration

Facilitator : Today we are invited to come together to reflect on the calls that Jesus addresses to us to build society and Church according to the will of the One he calls his Father, in order to contribute to bringing about his Kingdom, both in our world, so diverse and fractured, and within the Church, which often seems to us to betray the Gospel that you have revealed to us.

L1. Jésus, We recognise that we don't always respond to your calls as you would wish, and that very often we don't even hear them, which leads us to offend our brothers and sisters in humanity.

Forgive us, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Confident in your forgiveness, we have come together to be enriched by what you will reveal to us in the exchanges we are about to have, and to be nourished by your being through the bread and wine we are about to share in memory of you.

We thank you for offering yourself to us in this way, and for giving us the strength and discernment to bring about the Kingdom as you ask of us.

Chant ... You forgive without counting (Claude Bernard et Michel Wackenheim)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iHzTLin1oY>

Tu pardonnes sans compter Dieu plus grand que notre cœur. Apprends-nous à pardonner, Prends pitié de nous, Seigneur ! 1 Depuis l'aurore de nos jours Tu nous as tant et tant donné : Trésors de vie, trésors d'amour, La table offerte et l'amitié... Tu sais aussi quelle est l'offense Quand tous ces dons sont oubliés. 2 Seigneur et Maître de nos temps, Qui parmi nous t'a bien compris ? Tu nous fais don de ces talents Aux dimensions de l'infini. Quand notre dette est sans mesure, Comment te dire un vrai merci ?	You forgive without counting God greater than our hearts. Teach us to forgive, Have mercy on us, Lord! Since the dawn of our days You have given us so much: Treasures of life, treasures of love, The table offered and friendship... You also know what the offence is When all these gifts are forgotten Lord and Master of our times, Who among us understands you? You give us the gift of these talents of infinite dimensions. When our debt is beyond measure, How can I ever say a proper thank you?
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Facilitator : *We are going to hear a series of excerpts from the Gospels, the epistles and the witnesses of Jesus, which will help us to identify the attitudes, actions, words and objectives that seem to us to be important for building society, building the Church and building the Kingdom.*

L2 According to Matthew (excerpts)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". (5, 10)
It is not by saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' that we shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but by doing the will of my Father who is in heaven." (7, 21)

Then Peter came to Jesus and said, "Lord, when my brother does something wrong to me, how often shall I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, "I am not telling you seven times, but seventy times seven" (18:21).

I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me!" Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you.... When did we come to you?" And the King will answer them, "Amen, I say to you: whenever you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." (25, 34-40)

L3 According to Lucas (excerpts)

"Whoever has two shirts, let him share them with him who has none, and whoever has food, let him do the same." (3 :10,11)

Be merciful as your Father is merciful... Give, and it will be given to you. It is a good measure, shaken and overflowing, which will be poured into the fold of your cloak. For the measure you use will also be a measure for you (6,36-38).

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (12 :34)

"How difficult it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God" (18, 24).

(After being crucified)...Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (23, 34).

L4 From the epistles (excerpts)

And don't forget to do good and to share with others, for God is pleased with such sacrifices (Hebrews 13:16).

Share with the Lord's people in need. Practice hospitality. (Rom 12,13)

Do nothing out of a spirit of rivalry or vainglory. But with humility, consider others as superior to yourselves. Do not seek your own interests, but each of you seeks the interests of others (Phil,2,3-4).

Dear children, let us not love with words, but with deeds and in truth. (1 John 3:17,18)

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not act on it? Faith in itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2, 14-17).)

L5 Pope Francis (excerpts):

When we read the Scriptures, it becomes clear that ... our response of love should not be understood as a simple sum of small personal gestures in favour of some individual in need (*Evangeli Gaudium* §180).

The common good is "the totality of the conditions of social life which allow social groups and their members relatively full and easy access to their own fulfilment"... *Laudate Si* 159

The common good is first and foremost a practice, made up of fraternal welcome and a common search for truth and justice. In our world, marked by so many conflicts and contrasts that are the fruit of the incapacity to look beyond particular interests, it is of great importance to recall the common good, one of the cornerstones of the social doctrine of the Church...

(*Message from Pope Francis to the participants in the meeting "The common good: theory and practice" 14 November 2024 (see footnote¹)*)

The common good is achieved when we work together to improve the well-being of people in our society and around the world.. *Fratelli Tutti*

¹ <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2024/documents/20241112-messaggio-bene-comune.html>

L6 Jacques Gaillot, Bishop of Partenia (excerpts from *Evangile et société*):

.... Jesus meets people from all walks of life, men and women He does not seek to make disciples of them. The man from Nazareth returns them to themselves, to their freedom, to their truth. He helps them to access their humanity. Through his attitude, his gaze, his words, he recognises their dignity.... The only attitude that can free someone is to recognise their dignity.

..... What is sacred is not the temple or the Sabbath, but the human being. Nothing else is sacred. For Jesus, there is no hierarchy between human beings; responsibilities are different, functions are varied, but human beings are equal... (*Evangile et société*², see the footnote)

Facilitator : Let's take a moment to reflect in silence on the attitudes, the ways of being and living, the personal and collective actions that we are called to have or carry out in order to create links (which ones?), to build society, to build Church and to bring about the Kingdom. What place and what forms does sharing take in my quest to live well together, for the common good?

Are there structures, situations or obstacles that make me unable or powerless to be part of society? to be part of the Church? If so, what is my attitude? What do I do about these obstacles?

A moment of silence and reflection

Facilitator : Let's share what these texts invite us to be and to do.

Some time for exchange

Eucharistic prayer

Facilitator Let us begin our prayer by singing : « *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* » *Where there is charity and love, God is present*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYnKwVHLAV0>

L7 Praise be to you, Father, whom we recognise as the source of all life, all love and all brotherhood. Throughout the centuries, you have invited us through your prophets to live as brothers, sharing bread, sharing shelter, clothing the naked, not shying away from our fellow human.

We want to thank You today for everything that the generations that preceded us bequeathed to us. In humanising our society, above and beyond all the horrors and violence we still experience today. From all the new difficulties, all the new pitfalls that new technologies are creating every day

L8 Even if our concerns, which are at the root of some of our nervousness and confusion, paralyse or confuse us, we want to be in line with those who, particularly since the beginning of the 20th century, have sought to reduce tensions within and between countries in order to avoid conflict.: The first was the League of Nations in 1919, followed by the United Nations in 1945, even though it is now showing its limitations. Inspire those who are living through deadly conflicts, particularly in Ukraine, Palestine, Lebanon, India, Pakistan and Iran, to find Peace.

² https://www.recherche-plurielle.net/parvis-img/EVANGILE_ET_SOCIETE-Gaillot.pdf

L9 Help us, Lord, to help build a more fraternal society and a more harmonious world, especially in the places where we live and work. Help us to take an interest in all those who suffer and fight for the recognition of their rights, their dignity and their humanity, and to support, wherever possible, movements of resistance to oppression and injustice around us and in the world.

Teach us to see, to reflect, to speak, to dialogue, to change the way we look at the world so that we can see the Spirit at work. The Spirit through whom we become builders of harmony and peace.

Facilitator: *Those who wish to do so, can talk about what they are doing to make living together more humane.*

L10 Then one day, in our midst, there was a man, a man of flesh and blood; his name was Jesus, and he called you his Father. By his words and deeds, he became close to and a brother to all his contemporaries and now lives in us.

When crowds gathered around you to feed on your words, you made sure they had bread too. You asked those who had bread to share it, and then you were able to feed the crowd from that sharing, showing us that sharing is essential to life in society, in community.

Jesus, you have left us your Spirit. A Spirit of Sharing. Sharing goods, time, attention, knowledge and life. We thank you for that.

L11 You invite us today to be nourished by your being, just as you invited your disciples, your friends, to the farewell meal on the eve of your death, calling them, just as you call us today, to follow your path of truth and sharing, a path that you followed to the point of giving your life, out of love for us on the cross. We thank you for offering yourself to us in this way.

All : On the eve of your execution, you knew that this was the last time you would share a meal with your friends.

After thanking your Father for all the meals you had shared during your life and for this last meal, you took some bread and, after pronouncing the blessing, you broke it and gave it to your disciples, saying to them: This is me, given for you.

All: Then, at the end of the meal, You took the cup and after giving thanks, You gave it to them, saying: Take it and drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, shed for you and for many, for your lack of love. Do this in memory of me

Facilitator By eating the bread and drinking the wine shared in this way, as Jesus asked us to do, we commit ourselves to sharing and forgiving as He asks us to do.

Everyone eats the shared bread and drinks from the cup during the singing

Song: Jesus Christ Bread of Life (Taizé)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6N_QxNTGOc

Jésus-Christ, Pain de vie,
Ceux qui viennent à toi n'auront pas faim.
Jésus-Christ, Seigneur ressuscité,
Ceux qui se confient en toi n'auront pas soif

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life,
Those who come to you will not hunger.
Jesus Christ, Risen Lord,
Those who trust in you will not thirst.

Our Father our Mother (said slowly so that those who wish to speak can do so)

Benediction

L12 You whom Jesus calls his Father, bless us in everything we do for the Kingdom.
Jesus, our brother, watch over us and help us through happiness and trials along our way,
Holy Spirit, never stop pouring your love into our hearts, never stop inspiring us to forgive and reconcile,
so that the kingdom may come.

Final prayer (Francis of Assisi)

"Seigneur, fais de moi un instrument de ta paix. Là où il y a la haine, que j'apporte l'amour. Là où il y a l'offense, que j'apporte le pardon. Là où il y a la discorde, que j'apporte l'union. Là où il y a le doute, que j'apporte la foi. Là où il y a l'erreur, que j'apporte la vérité. Là où il y a du désespoir, que j'apporte l'espoir. Là où est la tristesse, que j'apporte la joie. Là où sont les ténèbres, que j'apporte la lumière. O Seigneur, que je ne cherche pas tant À être consolé qu'à consoler, à être compris qu'à comprendre, à être aimé qu'à aimer. Car c'est en se donnant qu'on reçoit, c'est en s'oubliant qu'on se retrouve, c'est en pardonnant qu'on est pardonné, c'est en mourant qu'on ressuscite à l'éternelle vie.	Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; Where there is discord, union. where there is doubt, faith; Where there is error, the truth where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy. where there is darkness, light; O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life
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Facilitator As we can see, the path to peace opens up as soon as we strengthen the luminous dimension of love, forgiveness, union, truth and joy:

Final song : *Imagine, John Lennon*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOgFZfRVaww>

<p>1) Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try, No hell below us, Above us only sky, Imagine all the people, Living for today...</p> <p>2) Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for, No religion too, Imagine all the people, Living life in peace...</p> <p>Refrain You may say I'm a dreamer, But I'm not the only one, I hope some day you'll join us, And the world will live as one.</p> <p>3) Imagine no possessions, I wonder if you can, No need for greed or hunger, A brotherhood of man, Imagine all the people, Sharing all the world...</p>	<p>1) Imagine qu'il n'y a aucun Paradis, C'est facile si tu essaies, Aucun enfer en-dessous de nous, Au dessus de nous, seulement le ciel, Imagine tous les gens, Vivant pour aujourd'hui...</p> <p>2) Imagine qu'il n'y a aucun pays, Ce n'est pas dur à faire, Aucune cause pour laquelle tuer ou mourir, Aucune religion non plus, Imagine tous les gens, Vivant leurs vies en paix...</p> <p>Refrain Tu peux dire que je suis un rêveur, Mais je ne suis pas le seul, J'espère qu'un jour tu nous rejoindras, Et que le monde vivra uni</p> <p>3) Imagine aucune possession, Je me demande si tu peux, Aucun besoin d'avidité ou de faim, Une fraternité humaine, Imagine tous les gens, Partageant le monde entier...</p>
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