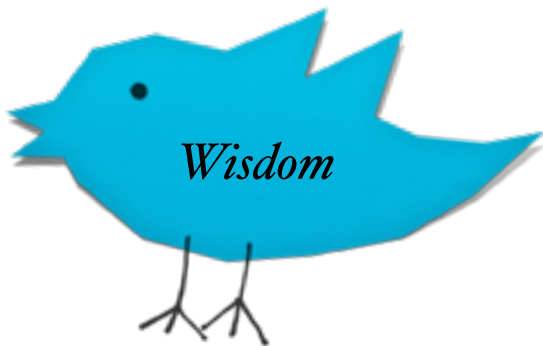




build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

## Cycle C

### Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Lectionary #166

#### Reading I: Proverbs 8: 22-31

In this passage from the Book of Proverbs, **wisdom** is personified as a woman. **Wisdom** is seen as a divine figure who existed before all things and was present and greatly involved in creation by contributing beauty and order. Although here **wisdom** is personified as having human characteristics, over time **wisdom** has come to be seen as a manifestation of God's activity and communication with humanity.

#### Reading 2: Romans 5: 1-5

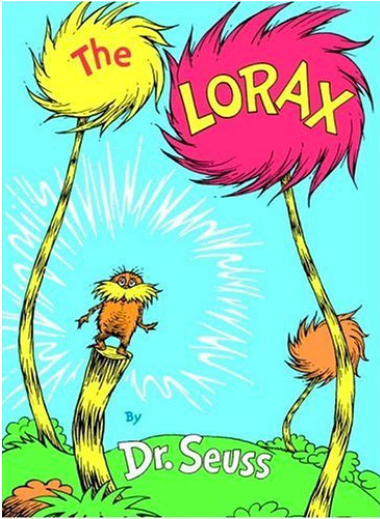
True **wisdom** is made known through the trials and tribulations that one encounters in life. It is crucial to see the interconnectedness of the virtues because they are all dependent on one another. Here, Saint Paul is writing to the Romans during a period of great persecution. He explains that with faith and hope, there will come a **wisdom** that will evolve. Evil and sin brought Jesus to the cross, but the power of goodness and faithfulness brought Jesus back to life in the resurrection. The true **wisdom** that needs to be understood is this: sin can never destroy the relationship between God and humanity because a person with faith can endure all things.

#### Gospel: John 16: 12-15

Jesus truly embodies and exemplifies **wisdom** when entering into his farewell discourse with the disciples. He knows that the disciples are not ready for the complete story because they still need to grow in their faith. True **wisdom** takes time to mature, and one of the difficulties of being human is that we often are not patient in waiting for these changes. Growing in faith and living in hope are part of being a person of **wisdom**, and living with **wisdom** means that we must allow the Spirit of God to speak and act within us.



## children's story



### *The Lorax*

Written by Dr. Seuss

Illustrated by Dr. Seuss

Publication: 1971; Random House Books  
for Young Readers

ISBN-10: 0394823370

ISBN-13: 978-0394823379



character  
education  
activity

**To conquer fear is the  
beginning of wisdom.  
-Bertrand Russel**

## *The Lorax*

*The Lorax* is a story about a boy who's looking for answers. This boy is living in a ruined town and, seeking **wisdom**, he yearns to learn the story of the Lorax. He goes to the Once-ler, an elderly inventor. Through this story, the **wisdom** of caring for the earth is made clear. The Lorax offers many **wise** phrases throughout the story that can be addressed to all situations, not just caring for the earth: *Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot nothing is going to get better. It's not!*

## Advancing in Wisdom

For discussion purposes, you will need a trash can and a recycling bin.

Step One: Talk with the students about how we are sometimes prone to putting ourselves down and giving ourselves negative messages, especially when we are having a difficult time, have made a mistake, or are thinking about things we don't like about ourselves.

Step Two: Show the students the trash can and ask them what it is. Then ask them what it is for. Ask them if they would ever consider eating trash. Why or why not?

Step Three: Explain to the students that sometimes humans put trash in their own heads by saying negative things to themselves, like *I can't do that* or *I'm stupid*. Explain to the students how these thoughts move us away from **wisdom**.

Step Four: Show the students the recycling bin and explain to them how we can take trash and make it into something good. Similarly, we can take negative thoughts and change the statement into something positive and useful. There is great **wisdom** that comes from reframing things and seeing them differently.

Step Five: Invite the students to write a trash statement, that is, a negative or unhelpful statement that they have either said to themselves or heard said to someone else. Then have them rewrite the statement in a way that indicates moving from something negative to something helpful. Discuss with the students how practicing this habit is one way to grow in **wisdom**.

**Patience is the  
companion of wisdom.  
-Saint Augustine**



**case study**

**Look.  
Feel.  
Know.  
Act.**

## **What could you do today?**

Continue the exercise from above as part of your daily prayer. Try and keep a record of the negative things you might have said to yourself each day. Write them down and then pray over the statements. Ask the Holy Spirit that dwells within you to help you transform the negative sayings into something positive. In this way you are seeking the gift of **wisdom**, which comes from the Holy Spirit.

## **Look Feel Know Act**

There are countless individuals in history who have failed but who did not allow their failures to dominate their lives. For example, Thomas Edison failed over and over again when he tried to invent the lightbulb, but he was eventually successful because he didn't give up. Walt Disney was told that he did not have any talent, but he did not take these negative words to heart and became one of the greatest cartoonists and the creator of Disneyland. When you think of these individuals and so many others, consider the **wisdom** that it took for them to refrain from giving in to negative ways of thinking. Remember how important positive self-talk is when you're trying to grow in **wisdom** and practice it daily by identifying negative self-talk and then changing it into something helpful and positive.



The story of *The Lorax* has everything to do with caring for the earth and reveals how to live **wisely**. The readings chosen for this Sunday of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity speak to the importance of relationships and how **wise** it is to be concerned about our relationships with others, with God, and with the world around us. When we remember our relationships with others and with all of creation, we are living with **wisdom** as our guide.

This is a prayer that Pope Francis composed as part of his encyclical, *Laudato Si, On Our Common Home*.

#### A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, You are present in all the universe and in the smallest of Your creatures.

You embrace with Your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of Your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and the forgotten of this earth, so precious in Your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward Your infinite light.

We thank You for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen and Amen.



closing  
tool



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