

HEY, CHURCH – DEAL ME IN

DAY 1 COMPANION SHEET

FROM HURT & SHAME TO HOPE

The grace to ask for today is:

*For a desire to pray for the Church
and for a desire to help heal the Church.*

Scripture Passage: John 5.2-9

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew, Bethzatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids – blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.”

During the day if you wish (but only if you find it helpful) you can do the following:

Invite St. Noël Chabanel, SJ (1613-1649) to spend the day with you:

Noël Chabanel was a very intelligent scholar, mastering languages and teaching them in France. But try as he would, he was not able to learn the Huron language. The people laughed at him when he tried to speak. To make things worse, his tastes were so sensitive and delicate, that he found everything about the culture revolting. In addition, he was always in the shadow of the other Jesuits who were so fluent and who were able to succeed in their ministry. He was sad and depressed. To counter this, he chose to make a solemn vow to remain in Huronia for the rest of his life. On December 8, 1649, he was killed by an apostate Huron, and his body was thrown in the Nottawasaga River out of hatred for the faith.

Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:

“The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected everyone is. If we do not take care of one another, starting with the least, with those who are most impacted, including creation, we cannot heal the world.” (General Audience, Aug. 12, 2020)

“We will be able to regenerate society and not return to so-called ‘normality’, which is an ailing normality, which was ailing before the pandemic: the pandemic highlighted it!’ ‘Now we return to normality’: No, this will not do, because this normality was sick with injustice, inequality and environmental degradation. The normality to which we are called is that of the Kingdom of God, where the blind see again, the lame walk...and good news is proclaimed to the poor.” (General Audience, Sept. 30, 2020)

“It is therefore important to continue the effort to immunize the general population as much as possible. This calls for a manifold commitment on the personal, political and international levels. First, on the personal level. Each of us has a responsibility to care for our self and our health, and this translates into respect for the health of those around us. Health care is a moral obligation. Sadly, we are finding increasingly that we live in a world of strong ideological divides. Frequently people let themselves be influenced by the ideology of the moment, often bolstered by baseless information or poorly documented facts. Every ideological statement severs the bond of human reason with the objective reality of things. The pandemic, on the other hand, urges us to adopt a sort of “reality therapy” that makes us confront the problem head on and adopt suitable remedies to resolve it. Vaccines are not a magical means of healing, yet surely they represent, in addition to other treatments that need to be developed, the most reasonable solution for the prevention of the disease.” (Talk to Diplomatic Corps, January 10, 2022)

Read and reflect on the Statement of Apology by the Catholic Bishops of Canada to the Indigenous Peoples of this land:

“We, the Catholic bishops of Canada, affirm to you, the Indigenous Peoples of this land, that we acknowledge the suffering experienced in Canada’s Indian Residential Schools. Many Catholic religious communities and dioceses participated in this system, which led to the suppression of Indigenous languages, culture and spirituality, failing to respect the rich history, traditions and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge the grave abuses that were committed by some members of our Catholic community; physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and sexual. We also sorrowfully acknowledge the historical and ongoing trauma and the legacy of suffering and challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples that continue to this day. Along with those Catholic entities which were directly involved in the operation of the schools and which have already offered their own heartfelt apologies, we, the Catholic Bishops of Canada, express our profound remorse and apologize unequivocally...We are pledging to undertake fundraising in each region of the country to support initiatives discerned locally with Indigenous partners...We pledge to work with the Holy See and our Indigenous partners on the possibility of a pastoral visit by the Pope to Canada as part of this healing journey.” (Sept. 24, 2021)

Sing to yourself or recite: *How Long?*

Google *How Long*: Lyric Video Steve Bell (*You Tube*)
(n.b. Listen to this video to its very end.)

Additional Passages of Scripture:

Isaiah 50.4-10, Psalm 22;
Mt 26.36-46; Psalm 56