

## **HEY, CHURCH – DEAL ME IN**

DAY 2 COMPANION SHEET

*THE WOUNDED ANGEL*

### **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: Luke 10.29-38**

Jesus said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

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

#### **Invite Saint Jean de Brébeuf, S.J. (1593-1649) to spend the day with you:**

In 1625 Jean de Brébeuf arrived in New France to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the Indigenous People. At first, he was refused travel in the canoe to Huronia because they said he was too big. Without language he negotiated acceptance, but that meant silence on the hard bench of a canoe all day for 30 days. In his early attempts to speak he was mocked for his mistakes. But after 3 years he was admired for having mastered the language and learned the culture. He was blamed for a drought and the smallpox epidemic. He saw in the Hurons a natural and strong feeling for God. He zealously tried to teach them about Jesus. On March 16, 1649, he suffered a horrible martyrdom at the hands of the warring Iroquois. He died having encouraged the

Hurons captured with him by saying “our torments will end with our lives, but the glory which follows them will never have an end.”

### **Read and reflect on what Pope Francis shared:**

Pope Francis wrote in his *Letter to the People of God* (Aug. 20, 2018) about clergy sexual abuse, “With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them.”

On Oct. 18, 2021, Pope Francis received a letter from a survivor of clergy sexual abuse addressed to seminarians. The Pope requested it be made public with the author’s identity withheld. The woman writing the letter explained how she was harmed for years as a girl by a priest, leaving her with many serious mental health issues including dissociative identity disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, insomnia, nightmares and a pervasive sense of fear of others, of making mistakes, of being touched. The woman wrote in Italian, “Please, do not sweep things under the carpet, because then they start to stink, putrefy, and the rug itself will rot away... Let us realize that if we hide these facts, when we keep our mouths shut, we hide the filth and we thus become a collaborator...” “I am afraid of priests, of being near them,” she wrote, and she can no longer go to Mass because this “sacred space” that used to be her second home now only triggers pain and fear. She said she is trying to “survive, to feel joy, but in reality, it is an incredibly difficult battle.” “I am here also in the name of other victims... of children who have been deeply harmed, whose childhood, purity and respect have been stolen ... who were betrayed and whose boundless trust was taken advantage of ... of children whose hearts beat, who breathe, who live ... but they have been killed once, twice, many times ... Their souls have been turned into tiny bloody pieces,” she wrote. Adults who experienced “this hypocrisy” as children can never be rid of it; they can try to forget or forgive, “but the scars remain in their souls and never

disappear,” she said. This abuse also harms the Church, and “the Church is my mother and it hurts so much when she is wounded, when she is soiled,” the letter said. The Church “is full of wounds and scars. Please do not let those wounds become deeper and new ones occur,” she wrote, reminding the seminarians that they have been called by God to be his instruments and to serve him through others. “You have a great responsibility! A responsibility that is not a burden, but a gift” that should be handled “with humility and love!” she wrote “Please, realize you have received an enormous gift” of being “an incarnation of Christ in the world,” she wrote. “People, and especially children, don’t see (just) a person in you, but (they see) Christ, Jesus, in whom they trust all the same without limits.” It is something enormous and strong, but also very fragile and vulnerable. Please be a good priest,” she wrote.

### **Sing to yourself or recite: I Believe in Sun**

Google [I Believe in the Sun](#), Gerry De Naro YouTube  
I believe in the sun, even when it isn’t shining  
I believe in love, even when there’s no one there;  
And I believe in God, I believe in God,  
Even when God is silent.

I believe in miracles, I believe in light,  
I believe there can always be a way,  
I believe that nothing is impossible,  
I believe that nothing is impossible;  
That all good things are possible with God.

I believe in the Son of God; I believe His Way.  
I believe He can lead us to the light,  
I believe that He is calling us,  
I believe that He is calling us;  
And He will lead us on our way. (Carey Landry)

### **Look at the Painting:**

Google: [Hugo Simberg 'Wounded Angel' 1903](#)

### **Additional Passages of Scripture:**

Luke 16.19-31; Isaiah 1.18-20;  
Romans 7.14-25; John 8.1-11



Painting of *The Wounded Angel* by Hugo Simberg