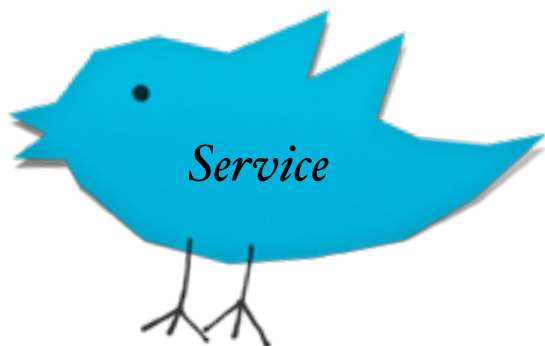




build. plant. grow.  
*the word this week*



ordinary  
time



lectionary  
reading

## Cycle B

### Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary # 74

#### Reading I: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

Job has always been a loyal **servant** of the Lord. Earlier in this book, Satan uses Job in a challenge against God. Satan says, *well of course your servant Job is a good and loyal servant, as all things have gone well for him*, and then challenges God to let evil things fall upon Job's life to see if Job will remain a loyal and faithful **servant**. A series of terrible things befall Job, and in this section Job is crestfallen and wonders if he will ever see happiness again. At the end of the book, we see that because of his faithfulness, Job does find resolution and reward. The Book of Job presents us with the confirmation that bad things do happen to good people and that humans struggle with this reality. It is faith that will see us through these difficult times.

#### Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23

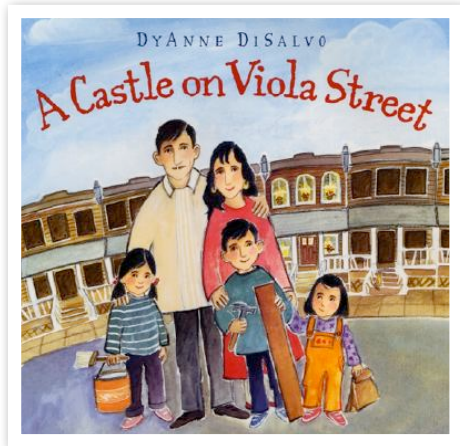
Saint Paul speaks to the people of Corinth about his call to **service**. He reveals that he has been called by Christ Jesus to be a **servant** of the Gospel. Saint Paul recognizes that his **service** to the Gospel calls him to be flexible to the will of the Lord as he ministers among the people. In this passage, Saint Paul proclaims that his personal weakness makes him stronger by allowing the Lord's will to be done. Saint Paul recognizes that he is called to empty himself so he can be of greater **service** to Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

#### Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39

Saint Mark's Gospel continues to speak of the many healings and exorcisms that occur at the start of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. Among Jesus' *powerful deeds* is the healing of Saint Peter's mother-in-law. Notice that the passage clearly says he *helped her up*. So in a way, it speaks of raising her, and as a result of her being healed and raised up, she responds by **servicing**. This is the ideal outcome of anyone who has been touched by Jesus. Being touched by Christ creates **servant-minded** people.



children's  
story



### **A Castle on Viola Street**

Written by DyAnne Di Salvo

Published 2001, 1st edition, Harper Collins

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ISBN-13: 978-0688176907



character  
education  
activity

**Service is the action of helping or doing something for another person. It is often referred to as a kindness, a helping hand, or a good turn.**

## **Book Title**

*A Castle on Viola Street* tells a beautiful story of a young boy, Andy, who, along with his family, who live a rather meager existence, are inspired to assist an organization of people who refurbish run-down houses into homes for others. As the story progresses Andy and his family, after helping restore homes, find themselves on the receiving end as a result of their goodness and regard for others. The house on Viola Street, which becomes Andy's family home, is very much a "castle" for him and his family, a dream home that has become a reality. Throughout the story, there is the realization that in **serv**ing others one really does receive far more than they give. This is not the purpose of **serv**ing but certainly is a result or fruit of **service**.

## **Activity: Habitat for Humanity**

Step One: Invite a representative from a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity to speak to the class, or do sufficient research online so that you can speak to your students regarding the work of Habitat for Humanity.

Step Two: Identify the cost of a window, door, or another household item that the class could reasonably provide funding for. Once the item is identified, have the students brainstorm ways they might fundraise to buy the item. If it is a window, the students could have their pictures placed inside a cardboard replica of the window, thus symbolizing their service project.

**Service to others in need is seen as giving honor and glory to God. Service at its best is truly giving a particular kind of praise and honor to God.**



**case study**

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

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

Have a discussion with your family to see if they would be interested in doing some service with Habitat for Humanity. Often parishes and other organizations have established a relationship with Habitat for Humanity that you could join. It is very important for you to remember that there are certain age limits and certain skill levels that are there to protect the volunteers at Habitat for Humanity job sites. If you are too young at this point, you may be able to spend time in prayer or do other good works that could support the work of providing a home or repairing a home for others.

## **Look Feel Know Act**

**Serving** other people often makes people feel good. People who **serve** others often say, "I received far more than I gave." When we focus on the needs of others, we have an opportunity to move away from our "wants," which are far different than our "needs." Look around and see what needs are not being met around you, and ponder what ways you might use the gifts God has given you to help provide for those needs. It is important to know that there is no small gift when it is given with great love!

*A Castle on Viola Street* very much parallels the ethic of **service** emphasized in the three readings chosen for this Sunday. Throughout our lives, we are given opportunities to **serve** others and when we do, we contribute to what is known as the “common good.” In living a life of **service**, we expend time, energy, and treasure only to find that indeed we have gained far more than we have given.

### Closing Prayer

A special type of prayer: Service-Do some good turn or provide some kindness to a person in need and know that it is a prayer that gives honor and glory to God. Amen.



closing  
tool



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