

## Tuesday Reflection 16 November 2021

### *The world turned upside down*

What, I wonder, would the world look like if the “powerful” really listened to and learnt from the “powerless”?

Would it help induce a spirit of humility in the former and build up a feeling of self-worth in the latter?

Would it help build up a sense of real solidarity, develop a real sense of “we are all in this together” which would give us a chance of facing the many challenges with which we are confronted?

There is an African saying that “it takes a whole village to raise a child”, which teaches us oldies that we are all responsible for the well-being and development of the younger members of our society. At the same time, however, we need to be mindful of what they can teach us. As one writer put it, children “question, they challenge, they shake us out of the lethargic stupor that we have let ourselves slip into. Their inborn sense of justice, fairness and forthrightness make them right and natural agents for change”. So let us hope that on our synodal journey, the whole Church will remember and internalise Our Lord’s words “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3).

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