



COP 27 November 15th Reflections

Be courageous, climb and be transformed by the face of God!

How appropriate that St Luke's gospel story of Jesus and Zacchaeus is read on this Feast of St Albert the Great. We are called to be inspired by Zacchaeus and climb out of our struggles and see beyond our narrow vision and be transformed by God.

You know the story; Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree in the midst of a crowd in order to see the vision of God in his midst. In so doing, Jesus named him as the one he would visit and so transformed his life. One lesson on this feast day is the very story of St Albert the Great. His writings and research range over a "whole world" of disciplines, encompassing anatomy, anthropology, astronomy, biology, botany, chemistry, dentistry, geography, geology, medicine, physiology, physics, psychology, and zoology.

Today, we are each called to climb our sycamore trees where we are to recognize the peril of respect for all of creation. Just like Zacchaeus, we can be trapped in our own story and fail to look up and look out across our world and beyond. Do we see the struggle of access to water from the Western Region of the United States to the rainforests of Amazonia? Do we see the struggle of migrants huddled at the borders with the shirt on their backs, eating the scraps of the waste to survive? Do we see the struggle of constant dependence of fossil fuels that drill into ocean beds spilling millions of gallons of petroleum into the sea? Do we see the dead zones of the Pacific Ocean? Do we see the collapse of the glaciers from Greenland to the Swiss Alps at record numbers? Do we see the effect of the clandestine child labor mining for metals from the only waters accessible for people of the Congo Basin to drink?

Now is the time to live the spirit of St Albert the Great, who saw the universe as the fertile soil of theology and sacred. Now is the time to take bold steps and see with a renewed and urgent vision empowered with the stamina and determination of Zacchaeus to see and be transformed by the face of God.

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