

# THE CATHOLIC Globe ...in the classroom

CATHOLIC CATECHESIS  
on a 'Global' level

## ON THE RECORD Raise your voice for our common home



By CHARLIE MARTIN

Musicians from many countries and cultures on our planet share their distinctive sounds and perspectives about our lives in the 21st century. In this column, I turn to a song from the Australian indie/alternative band, The Temper Trap. Their most recent single, "Fall Together," is just beginning to climb on the U.S. charts.

The song's character states, "Here I am, give me something I could follow, so I can find my way out from the shadows." He asks the audience to "raise your voice cause the time is now or never." I can't help but hear these lyrics in the context of our whole human family. Given the immense difficulties facing our world, truly, if we are going to fall, "we'll fall together."

The future of our world and whether God's family on this planet can learn to treat each other better remains to be determined. However, we possess the power of choice, and unlike the song's character, we do have "something to follow." We have the teaching and vision of Jesus.

We do not have to "fall" into further destructive violence and environmental degradation. Instead, we can "raise" our voices and speak for how all people are God's people; all people deserve economic justice and opportunity, safety and respect, and a future that preserves the planet.

The question that can lead us out of the "shadows" of 21st-century life is simple: Will we? Will we "raise" our voices and insist on policies and programs that promote human dignity? Will we resist any so-called solution to a problem that depends on violence or further harms the planet?

Fortunately, God has created us to be innovative and creative as we confront problems, and few people are more so than today's teens and young adults. So get focused and get thinking! And start right where you are: in your local school, parish and community.

In 2015, Pope Francis released a powerful statement on caring for our common home entitled "Laudato Si'." The pope uses metaphors from St. Francis of Assisi in calling our home like "a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." Pope Francis goes on to say that "this sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted upon her."

Pope Francis challenges us to change how we live upon our planet right where we are. I encourage you to ask your parish youth minister or your religious education teacher in your parish or school to begin a process where a group for youth reads and discusses "Laudato Si'." Then, it's time to act.

Instead of "falling together" into further painful realities, the 21st century could provide the historical momentum in human history when we "raise our voices together" and resist the choices of the past.

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### "Fall Together"

You and me know we're meant to be  
Maybe we'll never know  
You and me are the worst enemies  
Cause we don't believe anymore

Out on the streets  
Our colors bleed  
Nobody speaks to me

Here I am, give me something I could follow  
So I can find my way out from the shadows  
Raise your voice cause the time is now or never

And if we have to fall, we'll fall together

Shallow dreams tell me everything  
I've been listening but all I've heard is you  
Pulling strings

And you'll do anything to keep me  
hanging on your every word

Out on the streets  
Our colors bleed

Are you the one to speak to me?  
Here I am, give me something I could follow  
So I can find my way out from the shadows  
Raise your voice cause the time is now or never

And if we have to fall, we'll fall together

Thunderstorm closing in  
We're miles off the coast from where  
we're headed  
To break our fall  
It's the final call  
It's the final call  
It's now or never

Here I am, give me something I could follow  
So I can find my way out from the shadows  
Raise your voice cause the time is now or never

And if we have to fall, we'll fall together

Sung by The Temper Trap  
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## CHILDREN'S STORY

### The shepherds hear the news of Jesus' birth

One day, an angel visited a young woman named Mary, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph.

The angel told Mary that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would conceive and give birth to a son. She was told to name the baby Jesus.

"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God," the angel said.

Several months later, Caesar Augustus, emperor of the Roman Empire, decided that everyone living in the empire had to be counted in a census. He sent out a decree, ordering people to go to their ancestral hometowns to be enrolled.

Since the Romans were in control of the lands in which the Jewish people lived, they had to take part in the census, too.

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, which was in Galilee. Joseph was of the house and family of King David, so he and Mary had to travel to Judea to the city of Bethlehem – also known as the city of



David – to be enrolled in the census.

Mary was at the end of her pregnancy and was very close to giving birth. Even so, she and Joseph made the long trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, it came time for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to a son, just as the angel had told her. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room at any of the city's inns.

There were fields around Bethlehem in which some shepherds were living and working. When the baby was born, the shepherds were keeping night watch over their flocks.

Suddenly, an angel appeared to them. They were very frightened by

what they saw.

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people," the angel said. "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

So the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, where they found Joseph, Mary and Jesus, just as the angel had said.

**READ MORE ABOUT IT:**  
Luke 2

#### Q&A

1. Where did Joseph and Mary travel?
2. To whom did the angel announce Jesus' birth?

## PUZZLE

Unscramble each word, and then place the words in the correct order to reveal a sentence from the children's story.

enbe yadto orf het avdid ivsaro ni fo a sha ronb tyci

Answers: See page 15

## TRIVIA

What is a manger?

Answer: See page 15

## FEATURED SAINT

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (d. 1821) was born into an Episcopal family in New York, N.Y., in 1774. She married a wealthy businessman and had five children. Her husband became ill and traveled to Italy for help, but he died there. It was in Italy that Elizabeth became interested in Catholi-

cism, and she was received into the church in 1805.

In 1809, she formed the first order of women religious founded in the U.S., the Daughters of Charity of St. Joseph. The order helped the poor, founded orphanages and hospitals, and worked with parochial schools.

When she died in 1821, her congregation had 20 communities in the U.S. In 1975, she became the first native-born North American saint. We honor her on Jan. 4.

## BIBLE ACCENT

### Shepherds keep watch over flocks

Being a shepherd was a common occupation in biblical times.

Shepherds oversaw flocks of sheep and goats, either for their families or as employees of other people. Sheep and goats were important sources of meat and milk, and their wool or skins were used for clothing.

During warm weather, shepherds worked and lived in the fields taking care of their flocks. They led the animals to different grazing areas and made sure they had enough to eat and drink. The sheep and goats even learned the sounds of their shepherds' voices and responded to their calls.

At night, the shepherds would count the animals to make sure none were missing and looked them over to make sure they were healthy. Since the animals slept outdoors at night, the shepherds kept careful watch over them. If a wild animal tried to attack the sheep and goats, the shepherds used slings and stones or their rods – which were similar to clubs – to scare the wild animal away.

When the weather grew cold, the flocks were moved indoors for the winter. When the spring came, the sheep were shorn, and the entire process of leading the flocks to different grazing areas for the spring and summer began again.

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