WELLSPRING

Fransalian Center for Spirituality

16828 FM 2964, P.O. Box 440, Whitehouse, Texas 75791

Phone: 903-839-1280 Email: frgusmsfs@gmail.com

Wellspring Community Outreach

Monday, August 24, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Confucius says, “Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.” He lived during 551-479 BC and today we are not any different. We often talk about how complex and complicated our lives have become. We must stop talking about it and begin to simplify our lives and find peace.

Our world has become increasingly complex. Complexity tends to govern our civic, political, religious, social, and spiritual organizations. Even our Churches are becoming burdened with complex organizational structures and processes. Needless to say, even our prayer and worship services become too complex and complicated with procedures, rituals, and rubrics. Complexity appears to be impressive, even attractive. But it creates confusion, lack of understanding, and misunderstanding. Complexity seems to keep ordinary people confused and lost and dependent on experts and specialists. It does not contribute to the intended purpose.

God's way is simple. The message of the Gospel is simple. Simplicity defines the way and the message of Jesus. The message of Jesus, the truth he proclaimed and the life he offered are not so complex that we need a doctorate in theology to understand and appreciate them. Our prayer and worship services don’t need to be that complicated that we need a degree in liturgy for meaningful participation. The laws that govern our spiritual life are not so complicated that only a graduate degree in canon law can help us figure it out. God’s love is simple and pure. His call to conversion and transformation do not require elaborate, complicated rites, rituals, and processes. A simple yes to the call of Love will lead us to the transformation of our life in Christ.

From the beginning of our Sacred Scriptures, we find our God revealing himself in simplicity, purity, and truth. God is simple, pure, and uncomplicated and the simple and the humble hear his voice and know his mind. At very beginning of our Sacred Scriptures, we read about God creating the universe. In creating, God uses simple words, “Let there be” and no elaborate schemes or programs. We find God creating man out of the clay of the ground with no scientific formulae. After creation we read about God taking a stroll in the garden and man recognizing God’s movements in the garden. We read about God choosing to be with his people in a tent,

moving around as his people did. We read about God fighting a war with his people. We find God becoming a man, stepping into his skin, born in a manger and not in a mansion, walking the dirt that man walked, dying the death man died, and rising to be what he always was.

I encourage you to take a few quiet moments each day of this week to be still and to reflect on how your day has been and how simply you have lived and done what you are called to do.

More on Simplicity next week…

Be sure to take a few still moments during the week.
Bless yourself with stillness!

Be Still Moment - Allow yourself to be still for a moment

Justice is not simply about giving others what they can prove they deserve. Rather, justice is born of a love of God, self and others that cannot help but serve others in their need, without any consideration of deservedness.

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

If the heart wanders or is distracted, bring it back quite gently and place it tenderly in God's presence. And if you do nothing else while at prayer but bring your heart back again and again and place it in God's presence……. though it went away every time you brought it back, your time of prayer would be very well spent.

The 99 Club…

Once upon a time, there lived a King who, despite his luxurious lifestyle, was neither happy nor content. One day, the King came upon a servant who was singing happily while he worked. This fascinated the King, why was he, the Supreme Ruler of the Land, unhappy and gloomy, while a lowly servant had so much joy. The King asked the servant, "Why are you so happy?"

The man replied, "Your Majesty, I am nothing but a servant, but my family and I don't need too much, just a roof over our heads and warm food to fill our tummies." The king was not satisfied with that reply. Later in the day, he sought the advice of his most trusted advisor. After hearing the King's woes and the servant's story, the advisor said, "Your Majesty, I believe that the servant has not been made part of 'The 99 Club'."

"The 99 Club? And what exactly is that?" the King inquired. The advisor replied, "Your Majesty, to truly know what 'The 99 Club' is, place 99 Gold coins in a bag and leave it at this servant's

doorstep." So, the King ordered him to do it. When the servant saw the bag, he took it into his house. When he opened the bag, he let out a great shout of joy, So many gold coins! He began to count them. After several counts, he was at last convinced that there were 99 coins. He wondered, "What could've happened to that last gold coin? Surely, no one would leave 99 coins!"

He looked everywhere he could, but that final coin was elusive. Finally, exhausted, he decided that he was going to have to work harder than ever to earn that gold coin and complete his collection. From that day, the servant's life was changed. He was overworked, horribly grumpy, and castigated his family for not helping him make that 100th gold coin. He stopped singing while he was working. Witnessing this drastic transformation, the King was puzzled. When he sought his advisor's help, the advisor said, "Your Majesty, the servant has now officially joined The 99 Club."

He continued, "The 99 Club is a name given to those people who have enough to be happy but are never content, because they're always yearning and striving for that extra "one" telling to themselves, "Let me get that "one final" thing and then I will be happy for life."

Always remember…. We can be happy, even with very little in our lives, but the minute we're given something bigger and better, we want even more! We lose our sleep, our happiness, we hurt the people around us….. all this as a price for our growing needs and desires. We must learn to be simple, live simply and simplify our needs and desires to enjoy a happy life with what we already have.

Anticipating troubles….

For several years, a woman had been having trouble getting to sleep at night. The reason was that she feared burglars. One night her husband heard a noise in the house, so he went downstairs to investigate. When he got there, he did find a burglar. "Good evening," said the man to the burglar. "I am pleased to see you. Come upstairs and meet my wife. She has been waiting 10 years to meet you."

Did you Know?

What are Basilicas?

The term basilica comes from a Greek word meaning "regal", or above the rest. The Catholic Church has used basilica in this sense, with the Pope granting the title of Basilica to a church

that has unusual historical significance, or is especially sacred because of its architectural beauty, liturgical renown, or significance as a place of worship. There are over 1,700 basilicas worldwide, with the most, 572, being in Italy. There are currently 83 basilicas in the United States, all of which are Minor Basilicas.

There are 4 Major Basilicas, also called Papal Basilicas, all of which are located in Rome:

1. The Basilica of St. John Lateran
2. St. Peter's Basilica
3. Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls
4. Basilica of Saint Mary Major

These 4 churches are the holiest Roman Catholic churches. They each possess a papal throne, and an altar over which only the pope (or someone he directly delegates) may preside. Each of the Major Basilicas also contains a holy door that is sealed except during Holy Years of Jubilee. It is popular during Jubilee years for Catholics to pilgrimage to Rome to pass through at least one of these doors.

What's the difference between cathedrals and basilicas?

A cathedral is the home church for the bishop or archbishop of a Catholic diocese. It takes its name from the bishop's chair, called a cathedra in Latin. A basilica is simply an important church building designated by the Pope because it carries special significance. A basilica may or may not be also the cathedral of the diocese. For example, the University of Notre Dame has the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on its campus, but it is not where the primary cathedral of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is located. In terms of precedence, the papal or major basilicas outrank all other churches. The cathedral of a bishop outranks all other churches in the same diocese, even if they have a minor basilica.

Pope Leo XIV……

Angelus message on Sunday, August 23, 2026…...

In order to transform our lives and the world, we must develop a personal relationship with Jesus and renew it every day. Let us seek not to retreat into our own convictions and religious certainties, but to remain open to an authentic relationship with Christ. At times, when it comes to the Christian faith, we may be content with what we have merely ‘heard,’ with common assumptions or with what has been handed down to us, perhaps even with the best of intentions. Yet, Jesus calls us to give a personal response, to know him more closely and to allow ourselves to be shaped by friendship with him through an ever-new encounter.

Who is the Lord for me? Do I truly know him? What is his Gospel asking of me today? What steps and what choices am I called to make?”

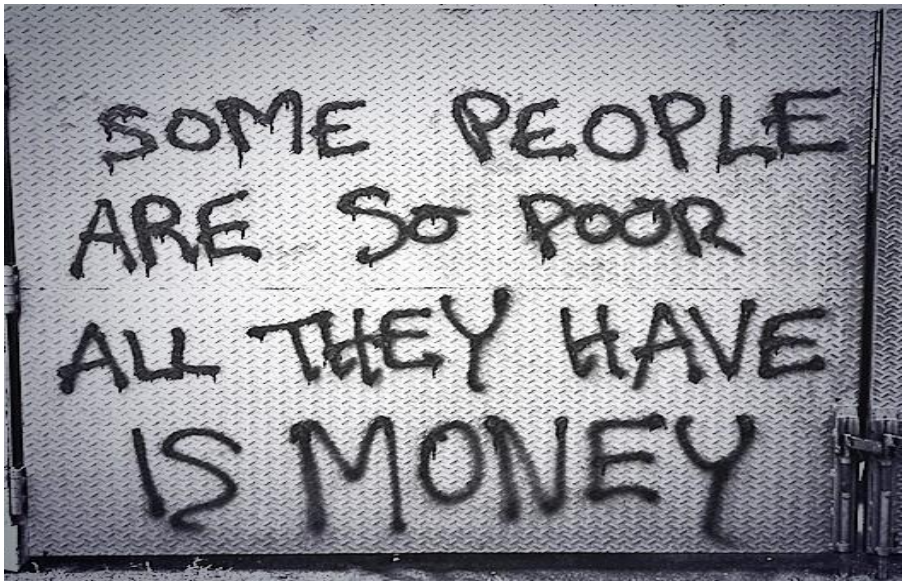
How these questions concerning who Jesus is for us and what he represents in our lives, emerges especially in prayer and when we meditate on the Gospel. They also arise when we encounter the wounds and needs of our brothers and sisters, and in those relationships and situations that most deeply challenge our conscience.

In our daily lives, we can discover whether the Lord Jesus is for us merely a great figure of history, who said and did important things, or the Christ of God, the One sent to bring us into the love of the Father and to transform our lives and the world in which we live.

Pray for each other……

Let us stay close to each other in spirit and prayer as we continue our journey through life with all its joyful moments as well as moments not so joyful. Be faithful to your calling! All you do may not be successful in your eyes or in the eyes of others. The real success lies in your fidelity to who you are and what you have come to know as your calling. Just be faithful and be joyful!

God bless you and your families,

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Our soul is truly simple when we have no aim at all but God's will in all we do.
(St. Francis de Sales)