


# WELLSPRING

**Fransalian Center for Spirituality**

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## Wellspring Community Outreach

Monday, November 9, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Today is the anniversary of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. The first reading of the mass on this special day is from Ezekiel, Chapter 47:1-2, 8-9, 12. Ezekiel had a vision of the temple of Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. He saw a river of fresh water flowing from beneath the threshold of the temple which transformed the salty sea into fresh water. The salty sea thus became a home to all sorts of marine life, and all kinds of living things grew along the banks of the river. This transformation from seeming death into abundant life testified to the life-giving power and presence of God in the temple.

In the second reading of today's mass, we read about Paul reminding the Corinthian community (1 Corinthians 3:9-11) that they have become God's temple, "building". The temple of God is the community of believers, the Church. Paul affirms that the Spirit of God dwells within the Christian Community. The Spirit of God is not found in a building…the Spirit is to be found in the living assembly of God's people. The spirit must be encountered today in our praying and worshiping community.

It is urgent that we, as a Church, as a spirit-filled faith community, make our presence felt in our world with the many disturbing and unsettling situations. We must witness to our faith. Our faith must carry us through difficult times, our hope must sustain us in conflicting situations, and our love must heal our brokenness and make us whole again. You and I can and must make a difference. We are disciples of Jesus, and we must witness to our discipleship.

I encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on the following:

Reflect on whether similar life-giving power, as Ezekiel envisioned, flows from our Churches into the world around us today.

Reflect also on what we can do as mature Christian men and women, disciples of Jesus, to let the life-transforming power of Jesus flow into our world with the many disturbing and unsettling situations.

Reflect on whether our Churches today are truly praying and worshiping communities, as Paul envisioned, where the spirit of God is encountered.

Reflect also on what we can do to let our Churches be praying and worshiping communities where the Spirit of Jesus may be encountered.

**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

It takes real discipline to "attend to", to take notice of moments of grace as we go about doing our daily chores and fulfilling our responsibilities.

## Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

Imitate little children who with one hand hold fast to their father while with the other gather strawberries or blackberries from the hedges.

## A Very Special Bank Account

Imagine you had a bank account that deposited $86,400 each morning. The account carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every dollar each day!

We all have such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever time you have failed to use wisely. It carries over no balance from day to day. It allows no overdraft so you can't borrow against yourself or use more time than you have. Each day, the account starts fresh. Each night, it destroys an unused time. If you fail to use the day's deposits, it's your loss and you can't appeal to get it back.

There is never any borrowing time. You can't take a loan out on your time or against someone else's. The time you have is the time you have and that is that. Time management is yours to decide how you spend the time, just as with money you decide how you spend the money. It is never the case of us not having enough time to do things, but the case of whether we want to do them and where they fall in our priorities.

**Do the best you can now, in this moment. Now is the moment of Grace.**

## Did you Know?

The term basilica comes from a Greek word meaning "regal" (meaning suitable for a king, majestic, impressive, etc.). 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.

Today, November 9th, the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome (St Peter, Paul Outside the Walls, St Mary Major and St John Lateran). The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the Cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324.

This basilica was the first to be built after Emperor Constantine's edict, in 313, granted Christians freedom to practice their religion. The emperor himself gave Pope Miltiades the ancient palace of the Laterani family, and the basilica, the baptistery, and the patriarchate, that is, the Bishop of Rome's residence - where the Popes lived. The basilica's dedication was celebrated by Pope Sylvester around 324 and was named Most Holy Savior; only after the 6th century were the names of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist added.

## The same problem…….




The School teacher sent home a note with her student. The note reads, "Your son is an obedient and bright student, but spends too much time talking to girls."

Mother sends a note back the following day, "Please advise a solution. Father has the same problem."

## Pope Leo XIV

"The Lord never abandons his people but gathers them when they are scattered and guards them 'as a shepherd guards his flock.'" (Monday, November 2, 2026)

"The poor of our day are the forgotten and the marginalized: robbed not only of bread, but also of a voice and a face. May they encounter the Son of God, who draws near to everyone without

neglecting anyone. May they encounter him, first and foremost, in those who call themselves Christians." (Tuesday, November 3, 2026)

"[Jesus] calls us to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit, that we can receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word." (Wednesday, November 4, 2026)

"God wants us to live, to open our eyes and return to him. To repent is to leave the paths on which we lost our way, and to follow the way of life, opening our hearts to the sole joy that never passes away." (Thursday, November 5, 2026)

"Our whole life is a journey, whose final destination transcends space and time, to be fulfilled in the encounter with God and in full and eternal communion with Him." (Sunday, November 8, 2026)

## 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

**We are not given a good life or a bad life.**

**We are given life. We choose to make it good or bad.**

