



WELLSPRING

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Wellspring Community Outreach

Monday, May 18, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

During the Easter Season, we have been reading from the Gospel of John at our masses and we will finish reading it this week. On Saturday, we will read the last verses of the last chapter of John's Gospel (John 21:20-25). During the most difficult period in the life of Jesus, Peter denied him three times. After the resurrection, at the Sea of Tiberius, Jesus gave Peter three renewed opportunities for affirmation of his friendship and love – threefold declaration of loyalty after threefold denial! When Peter declared his Love and loyalty, Jesus called him to tenderly care for God's people. Peter then wanted to know about the other disciple following right behind him. "What about him?" Peter asked. Jesus asked Peter to stay focused on fulfilling his mission and not worry about what other disciples may or may not do. Peter had just made a threefold commitment to love. It is up to him now to let his love become real, true and steadfast in real life situations regardless of how others fulfill their mission.

God calls each of us and gives us our own unique mission to fulfill. It is up to us to fulfill our mission without comparisons and competitions. Our love and service must transcend comparison, competition, and control. We cannot all be great missionaries, or great preachers or teachers, or travel to distant lands and convert thousands of people. We cannot all be shining stars in the sky. But we can all twinkle a little bit and that is what makes the difference. We must do what we can, however small it may be to give witness to our commitment to Christ and his mission in his church.

I remember the story of a little bird on its back, flapping its little wings and making the noise that it was able to make. A passerby asked the bird what it was trying to do making all the noise. "The heavens are falling, the heavens are falling," said the bird. "Oh, you are going to hold it up," said the passerby. "One does what one can," said the bird. We do what we can, however small it may be, to give witness to our love for God and God's people.

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus is known as "Little Flower" because she lived her life in a "little way", always ready and willing to do humble and small things without complaining. She did her daily chores joyfully with love. Greatness lies also in doing little things and doing it well with

love. Just before her death at the age of 24, suffering from tuberculosis, she said, "I promise to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

I encourage you to take a few moments each day of this week to be still and reflect on how your day has been. Take a few moments also to reflect on how you have given witness to your love for God and for God's people as you went about doing your daily chores.

**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

Be safe! Pray for those who are unsafe to be with and pray for those living in unsafe conditions! Pray for those who are exposed to difficult situations!

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

Live wholly according to the Spirit, live quietly in peace, have perfect confidence that God will help you.

The unfinished mission...

The Unfinished Painting: Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it – choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colors, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy and unable to complete the great painting which his master had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"

Jesus our Master spread the Good News of the kingdom of God some two thousand years ago by what he said and did, and supremely by what he suffered and trusted us, his disciples, to complete his work. Will Jesus' life not inspire us to continue and complete what he began?

Did you Know?

What is Easter duty?

Easter duty is one of the five precepts of the church. This precept requires Catholics to worthily receive holy communion during Easter time.

The Precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. All Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor.

The Precepts are as follows:

1. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year
3. Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season
4. Observance of the days of fast and abstinence
5. Providing for the needs of the Church

How many of you would like to go to Heaven?



A Sunday School teacher asked the children in her class: “How many of you would like to go to Heaven?”

All of the children raised their hands except one little guy named Derrick. When the teacher asked him why he didn’t want to go to Heaven, he said, “I’m sorry Mrs. Smith, but my Mom told me to come home right after the Sunday school class, and she was baking an apple pie for me.”

Pope Leo XIV.....

No one may claim right to violate dignity of others....

Pope Leo XIV held an audience on Friday, May 15, 2026 with participants in the Second Inter-parliamentary Conference on the Fight against Drugs and Organized Crime. The event was promoted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a club of 57 states across Europe, North America, and Central Asia. In his address, the Pope said their presence at the conference highlights the importance of combatting “the scourge of illicit drugs” and the criminal networks that imperil “the very future of our societies.”

“No truly just society can endure unless the law and not the arbitrary will of individuals, remains sovereign,” he said, “while no person or group, regardless of power or status, may ever claim the right to violate the dignity and rights of others or of their communities.” Law enforcement authorities and wider society, he added, must work to prevent criminal activities while respecting universal human rights. Pope Leo XIV went on to recall that true justice cannot be satisfied only with punishment, since justice requires perseverance and mercy in order to reintegrate criminals into society.

The Pope called for comprehensive programs to assist people who fall into addiction, which offer them medical treatment, psychological support, and rehabilitation. Education is the key to prevention, said Pope Leo, noting that it helps children recognize the devastating effects of drugs. “When social media so often disseminates dangerous misinformation that trivializes these risks,” he said, “education must begin within the family and be strengthened in the school, imparting accurate scientific knowledge of the ruinous effects of narcotics upon the brain, the body, personal conduct and the common good of the community.” Preventing and combatting organized crime, he said, is an essential aspect of building safe, just, and stable societies.

Pope Leo XIV praised the work of law-enforcement officers and judges, recalling those who have sacrificed their lives or endured injury due to their duties. In conclusion, the Pope pledged the efforts of the Catholic Church and her many institutions spread across the globe to assist those afflicted by addiction in collaboration with civil society. Together, in a spirit of mutual respect and shared responsibility,” he said, “we can promote policies that truly serve the common good and the inalienable dignity of every human being.”

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

Only a life lived
to the service of others
is worth living.

(Albert Einstein)