



# WELLSPRING

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## Wellspring Community Outreach

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Brothers and Sisters,

We continue our reflections on Serenity. Last week we reflected on Lent as amazing and inspiring season charged with energy and power for repentance, forgiveness, conversion, healing, growth and transformation of our life in Christ. However, we need to enter into the spirit of silence, solitude, stillness and serenity to draw from this source of spiritual energy and power. Lent is and has always been the Season for silence, solitude, stillness and serenity.

The Gospel reading of the first Sunday of Lent, (Cycle A, Mathew 4:1-13), speaks of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. In world religions, including Judaism and Christianity, the desert symbolizes silence, solitude, stillness and serenity which provides opportunities for being alone for personal reflection and discernment. It also offers time and opportunities for spiritual awakening, discerning God's plan and purpose.

The desert symbolizes spiritual testing, purification, and transformation. The desert experience enables us to strip away our ego and worldly ambitions and distractions to foster personal, intimate and deep connection with God, dwelling within us. The Gospel reading referenced above, tells us that Jesus was led by the spirit into desert or wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and was tempted by the devil and rose above the temptations to a new power and strength. We meet Jesus making a deliberate choice of method to fulfill his mission and rejecting methods contrary to God's Will. Jesus went to the wilderness to be alone. God had spoken to him. He was given a Mission. He had to be alone with God and discern his plans before he began to fulfill his mission.

Certain things must be worked out alone with God. Certain times, a person must stop doing and start thinking and praying. Each person must give himself/herself a chance to be alone with God. Being alone with God, Prayerful discernment, Reflective Living, Solitude, etc. are all values that we must cherish and cultivate.

Desert also helps self-discovery, finding inner strength and resources, often emerging as wisdom, resilience, new life and new directions, like the temptation of Jesus or the wandering of Israelites.

Desert is a personal space for confronting one's inner self, facing one's illusions and finding food and drink beyond the material that the world can offer.

**Try to include a few quiet moments into your daily schedule for reflection and prayer during the rest of the season of Lent.**

**More on Serenity 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**

Peacefulness is a force that brings harmony into chaos, unity into diversity and communion of countries, cultures and religions.

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

God's heart so abounds in love and his good is so great and infinite that all men may possess it while no one man thereby possesses less of it. This infinite goodness can never be exhausted, even though it fills the spirits of the universe.

### **Tough times don't last; tough people do!**

I do not know the source of the following story. But it challenges us to be tough during tough times.....The Carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refuse to start. While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterwards he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity go the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he replied. “I know I can’t help having troubles on the job, but one thing for sure, troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and the children. So, I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning, I pick them up again. Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”

**Tough times don’t last; tough people do!**

### **Sad at prodigal’s return...**



The Sunday School teacher was explaining the story of the Prodigal Son to his class, clearly emphasizing the resentment the older brother expressed at the return of his brother. When he finished telling the story, he asked the class, “Now who was really sad that the prodigal son had come home?” After a few minutes of silence, one little boy raised his hand and boldly stated, “The fatted calf.”

### **Did you Know?**

#### **Passion Sunday.....**

The six Sunday is called “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord” which marks the beginning of Holy Week. Prior to the second Vatican council, the fifth Sunday of Lent was called “Passion Sunday,” and Palm Sunday was observed on the sixth Sunday. Currently the Roman Rite denotes sixth Sunday of Lent as “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord,” which combines the two Sunday observances.

The fifth Sunday of Lent was called Passion Sunday because, on this day, the Church began to make the Sufferings of Jesus the main focus of reflection and prayer. Passion Sunday also marked the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended from the fifth Sunday to Holy Saturday. During this time, the Church’s liturgy became more somber, and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy. The most obvious example of a more somber mood was the veiling of statues and images, which remains an optional practice in the current liturgy. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but other images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

#### **Pope Leo XIV.....**

**Like Lazarus, may we hear the Lord's call to new life.....**

At the Sunday Angelus on Marcy 22, 2026, Pope Leo XIV reflected on the Gospel account of the resurrection of Lazarus, and how it invites us to the fullness of life and to be renewed by God's grace to walk in the light of love, reflecting His boundless charity. He spoke about the Lord's raising of Lazarus as "a sign that speaks of Christ's victory over death and of the gift of eternal life, which we receive through Baptism." The Pope encouraged us to see how the account of the resurrection of Lazarus invites us to "free our hearts from habits, conditioning and ways of thinking which, like boulders, shut us away in the tomb of selfishness, materialism, violence and superficiality."

"Jesus also cries out to us: "Come out!", urging us to emerge from these cramped spaces, renewed by his grace, to walk in the light of love, as new women and men, capable of hoping and loving, without calculation and without measure, according to the model of his infinite charity." The Pope said, Jesus tells us today, just as he did to Lazarus' sister Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die".

### **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

**When the power of love overcomes the love of power,  
the world will know peace.**