



WELLSPRING

Fransalain 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 10, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

We are now in the second week the month of August. This month, we celebrate the glorious events of the Transfiguration of the Lord on August 6th and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on August 15th and honor great men and women of our spiritual heritage like Saints John Vianney, Dominic, Clare, Lawrence, Maximilian Kolbe, Jane de Chantal, Bernard Clairvaux, Pius X, Bartholomew the apostle, Monica, Augustine, John the Baptist, Edith Stein and others like them. We also honor Florence Nightingale on August 13th who gave the world a new sense of the dignity and value of the nursing profession.

In August, we are also blessed with late summer flowers and the harvest season. I hope that you will make the best of the summer harvest and celebrate with colorful flowers, fruits, vegetables, salads, and soups and much more. It is a good time for us to slow down and reflect, find some quiet time to be still, even take a minute vacation, to get through the rough days of the summer. Summer doesn't have to be rough. We can make it a joyful time by taking a break from the routines, enjoying the fruits of the season, having fun with children being home, visiting family and friends, etc.

August also brings sad and troublesome memories. August 6th is Hiroshima Memorial Day and August 9th Nagasaki Memorial Day, the first and the second time an atomic bomb was ever used, the effect of which still lingers. We must hope and pray that such atrocities never again happen in our world. We are also facing political and social unrest, religious indifference, war and violence and other similar concerns.

The month of August holds the glory of the earth as well as its brokenness. It holds the glory of humanity as well as its imperfections. We experience the glory of the earth in remembering the great events, honoring great saints and heroes of our history, and celebrating the harvest and other festivals. We encounter our brokenness in the destruction of violence and war. Our world is full and empty, broken and healed, sufficient and insufficient, imperfect, and perfect – all at the same time. It is up to each of us to fill the emptiness, heal the brokenness, meet the insufficiency, and strive for a perfect world order. The secret of our wellbeing is not to cry over

our past, not to agonize over our future, but to live now, our present moment, faithfully, gracefully, joyfully and wisely with all the brokenness, contradictions and imperfections within us and around us.

The month of August reminds us of how great, courageous, virtuous, and wise we can be as we remember the great men and women of our spiritual tradition. It also reminds us of how vile, vicious, and destructive we can be in using our God-given intelligence, knowledge, skills, and talents. Let us strive to be true to ourselves, to be authentic in all we say and do, to be men and women of integrity, to be steadfast in living our faith and in loving our God and giving ourselves generously to one another in love and service. We have much to remember and be grateful. Let us choose to be grateful, joyful, and faithful.

“The glory of God is man fully alive.”

(St. Irenaeus)

**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

Movement is good for the body. Silence is good for the mind. Stillness is good for the spirit. And serenity is good for the whole being.

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

There is nothing and there can be nothing that I am unable to do, so long as I put all my confidence in God, who can do all things.

Porcelain Bear

A child saw a tiny porcelain bear and asked, “How did you get so lovely?” The Bear answered, “I wasn’t always pretty. Once I was an ugly lump of clay. One day a lady put me on a wheel. She squeezed and poked me until I nearly passed out. ‘Stop! Stop!’ I cried. Next, she put me in a furnace. She heated me hotter and hotter until I nearly burned up. ‘Stop! Stop!’ I cried. Then she put paint on me. She painted me over and over until I nearly choked. ‘Stop! Stop!’ I cried. Finally, she stopped. When I looked into the mirror, I couldn’t believe what I saw. And that’s how I got lovely.”

Ten Commandments.....



A catechist was teaching her five- and six-year-old children about the Ten Commandments. After she finished explaining to them the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'How about your brothers and sisters? What is the commandment that teaches you how to treat them?' Quickly, one little boy quipped, 'Thou shall not kill!'

Did you Know?

Laicization in the Church is the process by which a priest is returned to the lay state. It is sometimes used as a penalty for a serious crime or scandal, but more often it comes at the request of the priest. A laicized priest is barred from all priestly ministry with one exception: He may give absolution to someone in immediate danger of death. The pope must approve all requests for laicization. When a priest is laicized without his consent, for a crime such as living in concubinage, committing child sexual abuse or using the confessional to solicit sex, it is sometimes called defrocking or unfrocking. You may have heard these terms, but they are not used in church law to refer to laicization on request. They refer only to forcible laicization for misconduct and so they connote a penalty.

Pope Leo XIV.....

Even in our darkest moments, Jesus does not abandon us.....

Addressing the crowds gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Leo reflected on the day's Gospel reading, which describes how Jesus "joins his disciples in the middle of a storm, walking on the water." (Mathew 14:22-33) What was meant to calm the disciples down in the middle of the storm, frightened them even more. In this moment of distress, the presence of the Lord changed everything," Pope Leo explained. "Peter even managed to take a few steps on the waves to go toward Him; then he grows afraid, sinks, and Jesus saves him."

The Gospel reminds us of the need to trust and not be afraid and never to take our eyes off Jesus who says, "Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid!" Pope Leo observed that this experience brings forth "from the hearts of the disciples a profession of faith: 'Truly you are the Son of God!'"

Pope Leo drew two lessons from the miracle: Firstly, "not to become proud in the face of success", and secondly "not to despair, even in dark moments when we feel helpless in the face of problems and, despite our efforts, feel like we are moving backward rather than forward."

"In all circumstances," the Pope said, "Jesus does not abandon us and, if we humbly welcome him into the boat of our lives—through prayer, the sacraments, and listening to his Word—we will find in Him the peace, light, and strength for our journey".

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

**Life itself doesn't give you joy.
Life gives you time and space. It is up to you to fill it!**



In 1959, a coffee maker was an optional extra in Volkswagen cars.

**The Hertella Auto Kaffeemachine was the first
and only known dashboard-mounted coffee maker.**

**Manufactured in 1959 specifically for the Volkswagen Beetle,
it came with porcelain cups which could stick to the machine magnetically.**