

Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality

P. O. Box 440, Whitehouse, Texas 75791

www.wellspringcommunity.net

frgusmsfs@gmail.com

October 20, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel reading of today's Mass (Luke 12:13-21) Jesus tells us the parable of the "rich fool" who pulled down his barn to build a bigger one to gather in his rich harvest. This parable was prompted by a request that Jesus acts as an arbiter in a family dispute over an inheritance. The disciples of Jesus lived in a world where wealth was considered a blessing and poverty was a curse. An important and essential part of their formation was a transformation of their attitude toward wealth and material possessions. Jesus did not speak of wealth as bad but called for a change of attitude toward the possession and use of it. The parable of the "rich fool" is about the man never saw beyond himself. Neither did he see beyond this world. He lost himself even in this world!

Possessions have a way of possessing us. They begin to control our lives and we lose our freedom and joy. Erich Fromm, the German Social Psychologist and philosopher says, "Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction." Greed in all its forms consumes us from inside and out. We let go of many good things in our life because of our greed of having more and even better things. We lose our sleep, our happiness, we hurt the people around us, all these as a price for our growing needs and desires. We must learn to maintain a balance of our needs and desires to enjoy a happy life with what we already have.

This reminds me of the story of the rich young man who wanted to know from Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responded to him by suggesting that he follows the commandments that he knew. The young man seemed to want to do more. Jesus invited him to do "one more thing", to sell all he had and give it to the poor and choose to follow him, if he really wanted to. The young man could not make that choice because he had many possessions and he was not ready to part with them. Like the "rich fool" in today's excerpt, he failed to see beyond himself...neither did he see beyond this world.

Possessions do not guarantee life! Possessions could take away the joy of life! We have choices to make: grow rich before God or the world! Being rich before the world does not guarantee life! We are challenged and inspired to prayerfully reflect on our own attitude toward the passing pleasures and possessions of this world and make choices in favor of the lasting, enduring wealth that bring us into the eternal.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

October 20 - 25, 2025

What does love look like?

Love has hands to help others...

It has feet to hasten to the poor and the needy...

It has eyes to see misery and want...

It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others...

And that's what love looks like.

(Saint Augustine)

October 20 - Twenty-ninth Monday in Ordinary Time

When we have a clear direction to where we're going and the purpose of our going there, we can be more flexible in how we get there.

Romans 4:20-25

Paul presents Abraham as a model of faith. Abraham took God at his word! The essence of Abraham's faith was that God could make the impossible possible. Attempting what seems to be impossible becomes possible to the person who takes God at His word! Abraham believed that God would do what he had promised. We are privileged to day. We have the fulfillment of the promise in Jesus. Abraham had only the promise. We have the promised one. How much more should our faith be!

Luke 1:68-75

**In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus tells the story of the "rich fool" who pulled down his barn to build a bigger one to gather in his rich harvest. The man never saw beyond himself. Neither did he see beyond this world. He lost himself even in this world!

This reminds me of the story of the rich young man who wanted to know from Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responded to him by suggesting that he follows the commandments that he knew. The young man seemed to want to do more. Jesus invited him to do "one more thing", to sell all he had and give it to the poor and choose to follow him, if he really wanted to. The young man could not make that choice. He went away sad because he had many possessions and he was not ready to part with them. Like the "rich fool" in today's excerpt, he failed to see beyond himself...neither did he see beyond this world.

Possessions do not guarantee life! In fact, possessions could take away the joy of life! We have choices to make: grow rich before God or the world! Being rich before the world does not guarantee life! We are challenged and inspired to consider and prayerfully reflect on our own attitude toward the passing pleasures and possessions of this world.

Saint of the Day, October 20 - Saint Paul of the Cross and 17 other saints are remembered this day

Saint Paul of the Cross, originally named Paolo Francesco Daneii, was born on January 3, 1694, in the town of Ovada in northern Italy. Paul was the second of sixteen children, six of whom survived infancy. Paul received his early education from a priest who kept a school for boys, in Cremolino, Lombardy. In his early years he taught catechism in churches near his home. Paul experienced a conversion to a life of prayer at the age of 19. Influenced by the reading of the "Treatise on the Love of God" by Saint Francis de Sales, he became convinced that God is most easily found in the Passion of Christ.

In 1715, Paul left his work helping his father to join a crusade against the Turks who were threatening the Venetian Republic but soon realized that the life of a soldier was not his calling. He returned to help in the family business. When he was 26 years old, Paul had a series of prayer-experiences which made it clear to him that God was inviting him to form a community who would live an evangelical life and promote the love of God revealed in the Passion of Jesus. The first name Paul received for his community was "the Poor of Jesus"; later they came to be known as the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, or the Passionists.

In 1720, Paul founded the Congregation of the Passion, whose members combined devotion to Christ's passion with preaching to the poor, and rigorous penances. Known as the Passionists, they add a fourth vow to the traditional three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, to spread the memory of Christ's passion among the faithful. Paul was elected superior general of the Congregation in 1747, spending the remainder of his life in Rome.

Paul of the Cross died on October 18, 1775 and was canonized in 1867. Over 2,000 of his letters and several of his short writings have survived.

October 21 – Tuesday, Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**Having a purpose is the difference between making a living
and making a life.**

Romans 5:12-21

Paul tells the Christians in Rome that mankind was involved in a situation from which there was no escape. Sin had man in its power and there was no hope. Jesus came into this situation and brought Grace which broke this deadlock. By this grace, Jesus enabled man to escape the situation in which he was, hopelessly dominated and controlled by sin. Paul was saying simply that man was ruined by sin and rescued by Christ.

Humble yourself! Be reconciled! Remain open to God's Grace!

Psalm 40

**Sacrifice and oblation you wished not,
But ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
Then said I, "behold I come".**

Luke 12:35-38

Jesus teaches the disciples to be watchful, alert and awake...to be prepared. He said to them that no one knew the day or the hour when God would break into their history.

Be alert! Stay awake! Be watchful! Now is the moment of Grace!

Jesus used imageries familiar to his listeners. "Let your loins be girt" he said...in other words, pull up your sleeves; "keep your lamps burning", he said....., trim the wick and replenish the lamps with oil.... just be ready to welcome God as and when he breaks in.....you do not know the day or the hour!

How would you like God to find you when he breaks in? Your work completed? Your mission accomplished? Fulfilling the mission given to you? Your lamps burning bright?

Make sure that all is in good order!

Saint of the Day, October 21 - Saint Hilarion and 21 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Hilarion the Great was born around the year 291 C.E. in Palestine and was educated in Alexandria, Egypt. After his conversion to Christianity, he spent some time with Saint Anthony of Egypt before becoming a hermit at Majuma, near Gaza, Israel. He lived a life of hardship and simplicity in the desert, where he also experienced spiritual dryness that included temptations to despair. At the same time, miracles were attributed to him. In 356, Hilarion returned to St. Anthony in the Egyptian desert and found that his fame had Spread there too. He fled to Sicily to escape notice. As his fame grew, a small group of disciples wanted to follow Hilarion. He began a series of journeys to find a place where he could live away from the world. He finally settled on Cyprus, where he died in 371 at about age 80. Hilarion is celebrated as the founder of monasticism in Palestine. Much of his fame flows from the biography of him written by Saint Jerome.

October 22 – Wednesday, Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**When you find your purpose, find a way to make fulfill it
and not waste time talking about it.**

Romans 6:12-18

Paul says that the resurrection of Jesus has delivered us from sin and death and set us free for justice and life. Therefore, we have choices to make between life and death, justice and sin, etc. We have been freed from sin and now it is up to us to choose to be faithful to Grace. Sin has no longer power over us.....we are now under God's Grace.

Be grateful! Be faithful! Be happy! You are carried in God's Grace!

Psalms 124

**We were rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare;
broken was the snare and we were freed.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.**

Luke 12:39-48

Jesus taught the disciples to be watchful, alert and awake...to be prepared. He said to them that no one knew the day or the hour when God would break into their history. He also said that the son of man would come when he is least expected.

So be prepared. Be alert! Stay awake!

Jesus told them the parable of the faithful steward to emphasize the need for being prepared. He asked them about what would happen to a steward who was abusive in his master's absence.

Jesus called them to be faithful even in the master's absence, even when no one is watching. Faithfulness is an enduring quality of a person and not just doing duties and fulfilling obligations.

He also taught them that responsibility came with privilege.... "more will be asked of the man to whom more has been entrusted".

Abuse of privileges brings disaster. Be watchful. Be grateful and be responsible for the gifts and talents which God has given to you.

Saint of the Day, October 22 - Saint John Paul II and 28 other saints are remembered this day

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born near Kraków, Poland, on May 18, 1920. In the years of World War II, 1939 to 1945, Germany occupied Poland, and the Soviet communists took control after the war. Under Nazi control, seminaries were illegal, but there was an "underground" seminary in Kraków in which Karol Jozef Wojtyla entered in 1942. In 1946, Karol was ordained.

Between the years 1946 and 1978, he was a university chaplain, professor, Auxiliary Bishop, Archbishop, and Cardinal. In October 1978 he became Pope John Paul II. Through the course of his 27-year papacy, he made pastoral visits to 124 countries. His 1979 papal visit to Poland encouraged the growth of the Solidarity movement and played a role in communism's future collapse in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In 1981, he survived a gunshot wound in an assassination attempt, and in 1983 he met his attacker and offered him forgiveness.

In 1985, he established the tradition of World Youth Day in which youth from all over the world would meet and carry the message that they are Christ's light to the world. In 1994, Pope John Paul II established diplomatic relations with Israel and condemned anti-Semitism. In his years as pope, John Paul II wrote 14 encyclicals and five books, canonized 482 saints and beatified 1,338 people. In the last years of his life, he suffered from Parkinson's disease. He died in 2005. Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Paul II in 2011, and Pope Francis canonized him in 2014.

October 23 – Thursday, Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Conviction of purpose is the beginning of achievement.

Romans 6:19-23

Paul says that a disciple of Jesus can have no master but God. A Christian is a person who has surrendered to God in Christ, a person who has given complete control of his/her life to Christ, holding nothing back.

Grace is God's gift. God's Grace is not an excuse for sin!

The old life was characterized by lawlessness, uncleanness, sin. The new life is characterized by righteousness, and right relationships. New life is a life that gives God God's proper place and respects the rights of other human persons.

The new life leads to sanctification.....it is the road to holiness. A person who has given himself/herself to Christ has begun the process of sanctification, is on the road to holiness, and is on his life-long journey to holiness.

Psalms 1

**Happy the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked,
nor walks in the way sinners,
nor sits in the company of the insolent,
but delights in the law of the Lord,
and meditates on his law day and night.....**

Luke 12:49-53

The Jews waited for the Messiah, conqueror and King. To them, Jesus spoke of the terrible experience he was to go through - the cross was before his eyes. How different this is from the idea of conqueror King! Jesus came not with avenging armies but giving His life! His coming meant division and it still could mean division because loyalty to Christ has to take precedence over the dearest loyalties of this world.

To choose Christ could mean denial of other things and other loyalties!

Saint of the Day, October 23 - Saint John of Capistrano and 18 other saints are remembered this day

St. John was born at Capistrano, Italy on June 24, 1386. He studied law at the University of Perugia and practiced law in the courts of Naples. At the age of 26, King Ladislas of Naples

appointed him governor of Perugia. During a war with a neighboring town he was betrayed and imprisoned. Upon his release he resolved to change his way of life completely and entered the Franciscan community at Perugia in 1416 and was ordained a priest four years later.

John's preaching attracted great throngs at a time of religious apathy and confusion. He traveled throughout Italy, Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia preaching penance and establishing numerous communities of Franciscan renewal. The Franciscan Order itself was in turmoil over the interpretation and observance of the Rule of St. Francis. Through John's tireless efforts and his expertise in law, the heretical Fraticelli were suppressed and the "Spirituals" were freed from interference in their stricter observance.

John of Capistrano helped bring about a brief reunion with the Greek and Armenian Churches. When the Turks captured Constantinople in 1453, John was commissioned by Pope Callistus III to preach a crusade for the defense of Europe. Marching at the head of seventy thousand Christians, he gained victory in the great battle of Belgrade against the Turks in 1456. Three months after the battle, he died at Illok, Hungary on October 23, 1456.

October 24 – Friday, Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**Begin each day with determination and a prayer in your heart
to fulfill your purpose.**

Romans 7:18-25

Paul recognized the struggle between good and evil, tension between body and spirit and the difficulty in being faithful to the spirit. In this excerpt, he tells us that his deepest desire is the desire or longing for the good - the heart is in the right place. The spirit is willing, but weakness is in the body.

He humbled himself acknowledging his failure to do good and doing the opposite of what he really wants to do.....this is the weakness that everyone must strive to overcome.

Paul affirms his faith: only in and through Jesus, through God's Grace, this freedom from weakness becomes possible.

Do not get discouraged. Trust your goodness which is God's gift to you. And be faithful to the gift God has given you.

Psalm 119:66-94

Teach me wisdom and knowledge,
for in your commands I trust.
You are good and bountiful;
teach me your statutes.

Luke 12:54-59

Jesus called his listeners to learn to read the signs of the times. They know how to read the signs in the sky and predict weather changes and yet not able to read the sign of the times, they have not learned to read what is just and right and honorable.

Learn to discern what is good, just, and holy! You are gifted with the “gift of discernment”. Use it!

**Jesus taught them to settle differences peacefully and make peace with adversaries!
And make peace with God!**

Saint of the Day, October 24 – Saint Anthony Mary Claret and 348 other saints are remembered this day

Anthony was born in Salient in Catalonia, Spain, in 1807, the son of a weaver. He took up weaving but then studied for the priesthood, desiring to be a Jesuit. Ill health prevented his entering the Order, and he served as a diocesan priest. In 1849, he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known today as the Claretians, and the Apostolic Training Institute of the Immaculate Conception, Claretian nuns. From 1850 to 1857, Anthony served as the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. He is known as the “spiritual father of Cuba”. He was a missionary, religious founder, social reformer, queen’s chaplain, writer and publisher, archbishop, and a refugee. He was a Spanish missionary whose work took him to the Canary Islands, Cuba, Madrid, Paris, and to the First Vatican Council.

Anthony was appointed to head the much-neglected archdiocese of Santiago in Cuba. He began its reform by almost ceaseless preaching and hearing of confessions and suffered bitter opposition mainly for opposing concubinage and giving instruction to black slaves. A hired assassin—whose release from prison Anthony had obtained—slashed open his face and wrist. Anthony succeeded in getting the would-be assassin’s death sentence commuted to a prison term.

His solution for the misery of Cubans was family-owned farms, producing a variety of foods for the family’s own needs and for the market. This invited the enmity of the vested interests who

wanted everyone to work on a single cash crop—sugar. Besides all his religious writings are two books he wrote in Cuba: Reflections on Agriculture and Country Delights.

He was recalled to Spain for a job that he did not relish—being chaplain for the queen. Anthony went on three conditions: He would reside away from the palace; he would come only to hear the queen's confession and instruct the children; and he would be exempt from court functions. In the revolution of 1868, he fled to Paris with the queen's party, where he preached to the Spanish colony.

All his life Anthony was interested in the Catholic press. He founded the Religious Publishing House, a major Catholic publishing venture in Spain, and wrote or published 200 books and pamphlets. He died in the Cistercian monastery of Fontfroide in southern France on October 24, 1870.

October 25 – Saturday, Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**The secret of success is determination
and fidelity to fulfill your purpose.**

Romans 8:1-11

Paul speaks about how vulnerable and weak human nature is and how often we are dominated by this weakness. He says that there was a time when we were at the mercy of our sinful, weak human nature. Even the law has not helped us overcome our sinful nature. Now we are in the spirit. We are filled with the spirit of Jesus and are under the influence of the spirit. Because of Jesus and his perfect obedience, we are filled with a power that is not our own and are offered a life not dominated by the flesh, but by the spirit of God.

Psalm 24

**Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.....**

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus called his listeners to reform their lives. Jesus used the parable of the unyielding fig tree to teach them about the need to make changes and renew their lives. Give the tree another chance, another opportunity to yield. Nurture the tree, tenderly care for it, give it more time, give it another year, take another approach and give the tree another chance to yield.

This parable proclaims the Gospel of second chance. Give yourself another chance, another opportunity...give others another chance, give the world another chance.....

Fig tree in a Vineyard is a beautiful image. The tree had ample opportunities to yield and yet did not yield.

Reflect on the many opportunities you are blessed with. We have opportunities now which the world has not known before.

Saint of the Day, October 25 - Pope Boniface I and 20 other saints are remembered on this day

Pope Boniface I was Pope from 418 - 422. Little is known of his life before his election as Pope. He was a priest at Rome and served as papal delegate to Constantinople under Innocent I. When Pope Zosimus died in December 418, a majority elected Boniface pope, and a minority elected Eulalius pope. Pope and antipope were consecrated on the same day. He was ordained by Pope Damasus I. The Council of Spoleto was convoked in 419 to settle the dispute. Symmachus the Prefect supported Eulalius, and the Emperor Honorius supported Boniface, who was enthroned as Pope after the council.

Boniface condemned Pelagianism and encouraged St. Augustine to write against it. He ordered the singing of the Gloria in excelsis on Holy Thursday and regulated several points of Church discipline. He defended the rights of the Holy See. Boniface I died on Sept. 4, 422, in Rome.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past,
not to worry about the future, not to anticipate troubles,
but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly.
(Buddha)**