



WELLSPRING

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Wellspring Community Outreach

Monday, August 17, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

St. Francis de Sales advises us, "Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections. Go courageously to do whatever you are called to do."

Courage is God's gift to us to help us with the disappointments, failures and frustrations that life brings. It is this gift of courage that helps us be steadfast, stand strong and persevere even when our plans are not working out, when we meet with disappointments, when hatred, jealousies, greed and other such slings and arrows surround us or when God seems to be silent even when we pray faithfully.

Courage is our spiritual muscle that enables us to do the right thing and endure suffering and hardship that come with making the good, the right, the wise and the difficult choices and letting our faith become real for us and for others.

It takes courage and lots of it to answer God's call and remain faithful and steadfast! It takes courage to be true, to be authentic and to be steadfast. It takes courage to accept failures, imperfections and shortfalls and start over and let our faith carry us forward. We must strive to let our faith mature and let it carry us.

Remember Jeremiah cursing the day of his birth in the face of failures, disappointments, and hatred even of his friends. He had to re-discover the spark of faith inside of him and fan it into flame, "like fire burning in my heart", he says (Jeremiah 20). Remember him being cast into the cistern of Malchijah which had no water but only mud, and how he sank into the mud. But he came out stronger than ever before (Jeremiah 38). The spark of faith was fanned into flame and that faith took hold of him and carried him through his struggles.

Remember how the frightened men, the disciples of Jesus, found courage to proclaim the good news. They met their master who rose from the dead and they rose from their fears and doubts and anxieties and found new strength to proclaim the message of their master and fulfill the mission of their master (Acts 1-2).

Remember the many great men and women of our Spiritual tradition. In their imperfections, limitations and weaknesses, they found courage and let their faith carry them. Abraham and Sarah were old; Moses had a speech impediment; Miriam became jealous; Isaiah felt sinful living among sinful people; Jeremiah was too young; James and John were impetuous; Peter denied knowing Jesus; Paul persecuted Christians; Augustine lived a sinful life; Thomas Merton lived a Bohemian life style and became a communist – all of these and many others in our history found grace in their imperfections and sinfulness to fan their spark of faith into flame and let their faith carry them forward to fulfill God’s plan for them.

Take a few minutes this week to discover and re-discover that spark of faith deep inside you and fan it into flame and let it carry you forward.

**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

The answer you are searching for does not come when your mind is busy. The answer comes when you are still! So, just be still!

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

Through devotion, family cares become more peaceful, mutual love becomes more sincere, our service more faithful, and our work more pleasant

Whistling in the Garden.....

Once upon a time, there was a man whose hobby was growing roses. When he worked in his rose garden, he always whistled. It seemed to everyone that he was whistling much louder than was needed for his own enjoyment. One day, one of his neighbors asked him why he felt the need to whistle so loudly. The man then took the neighbor into his home to meet his wife who was homebound. The woman was not only an invalid but was completely blind as well. The man, you see, was whistling, not for his benefit, but rather for the benefit of his wife. He wanted his blind wife to know that he was nearby, and that she was not alone at home.

Take a few moments to reflect on “Whistling in the Garden” and its meaning for you today.

Jesus is “Emmanuel”, “God-with-us”. May God bless you with the most profound experience of His nearness and may that experience be your hope and your joy!

Silence in the Church.....



A devout mother instructed her three children about how to behave in the Church, especially about being quiet. She repeated her instructions again on the way to Church on Sunday. The greeters welcomed them into the foyer. The Pastor was in the foyer, ready to begin the mass. The mother asked the children to tell the pastor why it is important to be quiet in the Church. They were quiet. Then, the pastor asked the older child, "Tracy, why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" She was quick, "Because people are sleeping!"

Did you Know?

The various liturgical seasons and feasts are traditionally marked by certain liturgical colors.

Thus, the priest and deacon will wear vestments with the appropriate liturgical color. The same color may also be found on the altar or in other decorations. White is the color used for the Christmas and Easter seasons. Red is used on Palm Sunday, on Good Friday, on Pentecost Sunday, on feasts of the apostles and evangelists, and on feasts days of martyrs. Violet or purple is used during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Rose vestments and decorations may be used on the third Sunday of Advent and the fourth Sunday of Lent, and gold or silver vestments may be used on more solemn days, even if not the proper color of the day.

Black is also one of the traditional liturgical colors, although rarely seen any more. Black, violet or white vestments are worn for the celebration of funerals. There are two reasons why black is virtually no longer used for funerals. First, in our modern culture we no longer insist that black must be used to express our mourning. Secondly, our theological understanding of death is much more hope-filled than even in the early 20th century. The revised liturgy for funerals puts much less emphasis on sin and sorrow and prefers to focus our prayerful attention on the redeeming Christ and the hope of resurrection that He offers to us.

Pope Leo XIV.....

"Goodness is disarming. Perhaps this is why God became a child... Nothing has the power to change us as much as a child." (Tuesday, August 11, 2026)

"If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change." (Wednesday, August 12, 2026)

"Jesus Christ is our peace first of all because he frees us from sin, and also because he shows us the way to overcome conflicts — all conflicts, whether interpersonal or international. Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace." (Thursday, August 13, 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

When burdens come, remember, God gave you shoulders!

