

Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality

P. O. Box 440, Whitehouse, Texas 75791

www.wellspringcommunity.net

frgusmsfs@gmail.com

July 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, on this Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we begin again our journey with Jesus and his disciples through the Gospel of Luke from Chapter 10. We had read and reflected on chapters 1-6 before the Season of Lent. These six chapters reminded us of being immersed into Christ through our baptism; the need for ongoing conversion and transformation in Christ; the need for liberation from all oppressive and negative forces; being called to continue the mission of liberation, and salvation; being reminded of our inadequacies in fulfilling our mission; being assured that God will empower us to fulfill our mission; being called to choose “God’s Way” and not the way of the world and being called to love our enemies. Love for one’s enemies is the touchstone of being a Christian.

We were reminded that such love is possible if we remember who we are and whose we are – we are children of God. We heard the call to think and speak well of others; to be gracious and generous in interpreting other people’s behaviors instead of being judgmental; to recognize our own imperfections, failures and sins and strive to correct them; to help others with similar tendencies rather than pass judgments on them; and to bring out the best from ourselves and from others. They were all very practical guidance to loving others, including our enemies.

This brought us to the end of Chapter 6. We missed reading Chapters 7-9 because we have been celebrating seasons of Lent, Easter and major feasts of the Church during the past several weeks. These chapters give his good insights into the early ministry of Jesus. Chapter 7 tells us of the healing of a centurion’s slave; raising of the widow’s son; Jesus speaking of John the Baptist as the greatest born yet; and pardoning of the sinful woman who washed his feet with her tears in the house of Simon, a leading pharisee.

Chapter 8 tells us of the Galilean women who followed Jesus and ministered to him; the parable of the Sower; the Parable of the Lamp; the calming of a storm at Sea; the healing of the Gerasene demoniac; and the healing of Jairus’s daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage. Chapter 9 tells us of the mission of the Twelve apostles; the return of the Twelve after their first mission; the feeding of the five thousand; Peter’s Confession of Jesus as the messiah; the first prediction of the Passion of Jesus; Jesus speaking of the conditions of discipleship; the Transfiguration of Jesus; the healing of a boy with a demon; the second prediction of the passion and beginning of the journey to Jerusalem.

We begin again in Chapter 10 and continue our journey with Jesus and his disciples through the rest of the Gospel of Luke. Today, we hear Jesus instructing seventy two disciples to go and proclaim the presence of the kingdom with a positive and optimistic attitude. Jesus said, “the harvest is abundant” (Luke 10:2) and not enough laborers to gather in the harvest. He also told them that their mission was not going to be easy and that they were being sent as “lambs among wolves.” He instructed them not to meet hostilities with hostilities, but take a different approach, a peacefulness approach. He told them to go on their mission without delay – it was urgent to proclaim the presence of the kingdom. Matters of the kingdom of God cannot be put off for tomorrow. Now, this moment, is the moment of the kingdom! Now is the moment of Grace. St. Francis de Sales reminds us, “Every moment is pregnant with the voice of God.”

Jesus advised the seventy-two disciples to go free without attachments to material possessions, places, positions or even people. Attachments are binding and make us unfree. The disciples are sent on a mission, and they must be free to move. Jesus stressed the urgency of proclaiming the presence of the kingdom by instructing them not even to greet people on the way as it will delay their journey. Today’s Gospel reading tells us that the seventy-two disciples took the command of Jesus seriously, went on their first mission and proclaimed the good news with great success.

They returned to their master and told him about their accomplishments with great joy and excitement. They said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name” (Luke 10:18). Then came the great challenge of discipleship from the mouth of the master himself. “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky...Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:18-20). Having “names written” is about being accepted as in a classroom or in an organization. If the name is on the roster, the person named belongs in the group.

The disciple must find joy in being accepted into the kingdom of God and not in his success or achievements or accomplishments. This was the teaching of Jesus from the very beginning of his ministry. It was the poor in spirit, the gentle, the meek, the merciful, the sorrowing, the hungry, the insulted and the rejected that belonged in the kingdom and not those with great wealth or position or accomplishments. The joy of a disciple is in being a disciple and not in doing the work of the disciple. All that is done is only an expression of discipleship. Being a disciple is reward and joy in itself.

Let us strive to find joy in being what the Lord calls us to be. We are called to be disciples of Jesus and we must find joy in just being his disciples, doing what we are called to do and in being the best that we can be.

God bless you and your family

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Scroll down to read the reflections on the Scripture readings of today’s mass....

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 6, 2025

**Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned.
Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again
and, especially, for reconciliation and forgiveness.
(Pope Benedict XVI)**

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

Prayerfully read the first reading and then read my reflections below and spend a few moments of personal reflection. Do the same with Responsorial Psalm and other readings.

**Plan your future with purpose, organize your life with faith,
strive to fulfill your purpose with hope.**

Isaiah 66:10-14

The sixth century prophet shares his vision of Mother Jerusalem in an all-embracing love of her children, nursing her children and taking delight in their restoration. Loved, forgiven and restored by God, Jerusalem would stand as a sign of compassion and power among the peoples. The power of the Lord will be revealed in and through his servants.

Psalm 66

The Psalmist invites all people, not just the believing Israel, to shout joyfully to the Lord and sing him glorious praises. He marvels at the awesome deeds of the Lord and calls all people to

be faithful to their promises and vows. God is so awesome and so powerful that his enemies have no chance, but cringe! He invites all people to come and see what God has done.

The Lord has not withheld his steadfast love from me, he says. This is a source of great joy. It is also a source of inspiration and strength. It is a challenge to reach out to others in love - “not to withhold” our love from others. We are called to give what we have received as gifts from the Lord.

**Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,
Sing praise to the glory of his name;
Proclaim his glorious praise.
Say to God, “How tremendous are your deeds!”**

Galatians 6:14-18

In this excerpt, Paul tries to convince the Galatians that it is through the cross of Jesus that salvation has come to sinful humanity. Paul’s opponents insisted on the necessity of the law and circumcision for salvation. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters is that one is created anew. Paul was convinced that it was the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that brought salvation. Paul wished peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life.

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus said to his disciples, “Look, there is a rich harvest.....” Jesus looked at a crowd and saw a rich harvest while the Pharisees looked at the same people and found only sinful, unfaithful people worthy of judgment and condemnation. Jesus found people to be gathered, to be brought in and not shut out.....

The disciples of Jesus are called to maintain a positive attitude toward the world around them and gather people in rather than alienate them.....

The disciples were given a God-directed mission and not a self-fulfilling, self-directed mission. There was an urgency about fulfilling this mission because the mission was the proclamation of the presence of the Kingdom of God – it was about the rich harvest waiting to be gathered in and not about some future reality.

So, the disciples of Jesus were called to live a simple life, travel light and not be burdened with stuff that weighs them down.....

Disciples of Jesus are called to be bearers of good news, of peace, of God’s forgiving love, of God’s healing presence....and never to become a burden to others.....

The seventy-two disciples went on their first mission and they were excited about their accomplishments.... the devils became subject to their power.... who wouldn't be excited!!! They returned and told their master about all the wonderful things they did. The master told them to rejoice, not in their accomplishments, but in their being accepted into the kingdom.

The joy of a disciple is in being a disciple and not in doing the work of the disciple. All that is done is only an expression of discipleship. Being a disciple is reward and joy in itself.

Be Still for a few moments!

Pray for your needs and those of your family and community.

Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe in your real presence in the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Altar. I place myself in your presence and adore you, worship you and glorify you. I am unable to receive you in Holy Communion at Mass today. I hunger and thirst for your way, your truth and your life. Come into my heart Lord and satisfy my hunger and quench my thirst. Bless me that I may give witness to your presence in my life. Amen

Be Still for a few moments!

Saint of the day, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti and 18 other saints are remembered this day

Maria Goretti was born on October 16, 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Province of Ancona, then in the Kingdom of Italy, to Luigi Goretti and Assunta Carlini, the third of seven children. By the time Maria was five, her family had become so poor that they were forced to give up their farm, move, and work for other farmers. In 1896 and 1899, they moved again and shared room with another family which included Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro. Soon, her father became very sick with malaria, and died when she was just nine. While her mother and siblings worked in the fields, she would cook, sew, watch her sister Teresa, and keep the house clean.

On July 5, 1902, eleven-year-old Maria was sitting on the outside steps of her home, sewing one of Alessandro's shirts and watching Teresa, while Alessandro was threshing beans in the barnyard. Knowing she would be alone, he returned to the house and threatened to stab her with an awl if she did not do what he said; he was intending to rape her. She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning him that he would go to Hell. She fought desperately and kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not

want it!" He first choked her, but when she insisted, she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. She tried to reach the door, but he stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia. Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria." She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in Heaven with her. She died that day, on July 6, 1902 at the age of eleven, while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest.

Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**Find joy in being what the Lord calls you to be.
Be a joyful and joy-filled disciple!**

