

Wellspring Fransalian Center for Spirituality

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Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday, we reflected on the generosity of our God who has provided us with all that we need and trusted us with His creation. Let us reflect little more on this call to be generous as our God is generous to us. Generosity is not something that happens because we have become wealthy. Being generous is our lifestyle, the way we live, think and act. It is the way we approach the world, the way we manage all our possessions and relationships.

Most of us know the Gospel story of the poor widow putting in two of the smallest coins into the collection box of the temple treasury. Jesus remarked that her gift was more than what many rich people had given, since she gave all that she had to live on. I have heard many thoughts on this story which are all inspiring and challenging: it is not the size of the gift that matters, but what it costs you; there are no gifts that are too small, without value; even our small gifts are important...they do make a difference and so on.

Jesus was sitting opposite the treasury at the temple. He saw many rich people putting in large sums of money, and then a poor widow putting in two small copper coins – like a penny or two in our terms. He called his disciples and gave this poor widow as an example to follow. The rich gave out of their abundance; but she, out of her poverty, had put in everything she had, all she had to live on. What Jesus praised was not the amount of money that she gave, but the person that she was – she was, benevolent, generous and self-sacrificing...had a heart of abundance!

The widow's small gift was an abundant offering...came from a heart of abundance. Her way of giving - giving from the little she had – is the practice that Jesus offered the disciples as an example. She gave for God's purpose to maintain God's house, without questioning, with generosity, giving the last two cents for God's purposes. Her way of giving was generous and sacrificial and that is the way that Jesus offers us for inspiration and imitation.

Let us choose to be grateful and joyful and generous with the abundance that is available to us and not be discontent, looking for more and better. Let us be mindful of those who are less privileged than we are, rethink our needs, downsize our appetites, share with the hungry and the needy and share from the abundance we have received. Let us have a big heart!

God bless you and your family and keep you safe in His Love.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Twenty-seventh Week in Ordinary Time

October 5-10, 2026

**When prayer is a struggle, do not worry about the prayers that you cannot pray.
You yourself are a prayer to God at that moment.
All that is within you cries out to Him.**

October 5 – Monday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Commitment, determination, perseverance and loving what you do
will bring you peace and serenity.**

Galatians 1:6-12

Some people told the Galatians that Paul was not an apostle, and they need not listen to him. The main reason was that he was not one of the original twelve and that he was a persecutor of Christians. In this excerpt, we find Paul defending himself, claiming that his mission was given to him by God and not by any human authority. Paul was convinced that God has spoken to him and sent him on his mission.

Psalm 111

**I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,
in the company and assembly of the just
Great are the works of the Lord,
exquisite in all their delights.**

Luke 10:25-37

A lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit everlasting life. Jesus answered him by saying that he must follow the law that he knew which he spelled out as love God and neighbor with all that is available. The lawyer then wanted to know who the “neighbor” was. Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan and asked him to make his choice about who he was going to treat as his neighbor.

This excerpt and the story that Jesus told teach us many things and give us good insights. First it reminds us that the most important thing is to love God and neighbor with all we have...give love all you got!

Secondly, it teaches us that the real question is not who my neighbor is but to whom I become a neighbor. Be a neighbor to someone today.

Thirdly, it teaches us not to take unnecessary risks like the man going down a dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho.....be cautious and discerning in making choices.

It also teaches us to be sensitive and care for people who are in need even when they have made unreasonable or wrong choices.....be compassionate and show compassion for someone today.

Saint of the Day, October 5 - Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and 23 other saints are remembered this day.

Helena Kowalska was born in what is now west-central Poland on August 25, 1905. She was the third of 10 children to a poor and religious family. She worked as a housekeeper in three cities to support her family. She approached many different convents but was turned away every time. Finally, the mother superior for the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy decided to take in Faustina on the condition that she could pay for her own religious habit. Working as a housekeeper, Faustina began to save her money and make deposits to the Convent.

On April 30, 1926, at the age of 20, she finally received her habit and took the religious name of Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament and in 1928, she took her first religious vows as a nun. She worked as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses.

On February 22, 1931, Faustina was visited by Jesus, who presented himself as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays coming from his heart. She was asked to become the apostle and secretary of God's mercy, a model of how to be merciful to others, and an instrument for reemphasizing God's plan of mercy for the world. Sister Maria Faustina died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938, and was canonized in April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II.

October 6 - Tuesday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**One of the finest and greatest things that you can nurture is
stillness of the soul and serenity of the spirit.**

Galatians 1:13-24

The Galatians readily accepted Paul and his teaching. But they also readily listened to other preachers who told them to follow the Law of Moses. Paul refuted those preachers and referred to his credentials as an apostle who has seen the Lord. The Gospel proclaimed is not “mere human invention”, but a gift from the Lord. Paul taught the Galatians to trust sound teaching and healthy traditions.

Psalms 139

**O Lord, you have probed me and you know me;
You know when I sit and when I stand,
You understand my thoughts from afar.....**

Luke 10:38-42

Martha had lots to do. There were no cans to open, no frozen foods, no freezers, no fast-food places to go, no 800 numbers to call.....Martha had lots to do. Guest had come and the guest was her friend, her brother's friend and her sister's friend and a Rabbi, a Prophet and much more. Martha wished that if Jesus could just get Mary into the kitchen, together they could finish the work and spend time with the guest. But Jesus invited Martha to discern what was necessary.

The way this story has been passed on to modern readers of the Gospel is disappointing. Christians through the ages have misunderstood the whole episode. Many have thought that the struggle was in trying to keep a good balance between contemplative prayer and active ministry and that Jesus was encouraging us to choose the former over the latter.

While every disciple feels the tension of wanting to pray more, while being pulled to respond to the urgent needs, Jesus would never have preferred one over the other (if you know Jesus, that is). In fact, he told us over and over that a good disciple is one who hears the word and then puts it into practice (Lk.8:15; 11:28). We also know, in spite of his busy schedule and the pressures of those who needed him, he withdrew into quiet places to be alone with his Father, to discern his Father's plans, to draw strength and courage and wisdom and to surrender to his Father's will.

As you reflect on your ministerial demands, let the words and example of Jesus and his first women followers inspire you to follow the Spirit's lead.

Saint of the Day, October 6 - St. Bruno and 22 other saints are remembered this day

Bruno was born in Cologne, Germany in 1030 of the prominent Hartenfaust family. He studied at the Cathedral school at Rheims, and on his return to Cologne about 1055, was ordained and became a Canon at St. Cunibert's. He returned to Rheims in 1056 as professor of theology, became head of the school the following year, and remained there until 1074, when he was appointed chancellor of Rheims by its archbishop, Manasses. Bruno was forced to flee Rheims when he and several other priests denounced Manasses in 1076 as unfit for the office of Papal Legate. Bruno later returned to Cologne but went back to Rheims in 1080 when Manasses was deposed, and though the people of Rheims wanted to make Bruno archbishop, he decided to pursue a hermit's life.

Bruno became a hermit and moved on to Grenoble with six companions in 1084. They were assigned a place for their hermitages in a desolate, mountainous, alpine area called La Grande Chartreuse, by the bishop of Grenoble, whose confessor Bruno became. They built an oratory and individual cells, roughly followed the rule of St. Benedict, and thus began the Carthusian Order. They embraced a life of poverty, manual work, prayer, and transcribing manuscripts, though as yet they had no written rule.

The fame of the group and their founder spread, and in 1090, Bruno was brought to Rome, against his wishes, by Pope Urban II (whom he had taught at Rheims) as Papal Adviser in the reformation of the clergy. Bruno persuaded Urban to allow him to resume his life as a hermit, declined the Pope's offer of the archbishopric of Reggio, and remained there until his death on October 6, 1101. He wrote several commentaries on the psalms and on St. Paul's epistles. He was never formally canonized because of the Carthusians' aversion to public honors, but Pope Leo X granted the Carthusians permission to celebrate his feast in 1514, and his name was placed on the Roman calendar in 1623.

October 7 - Wednesday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Being grounded in faith, moving in hope and living in love
bring serenity and peace.**

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14

This excerpt describes Paul's anxiety over the situation of the Gentile converts and the Judaizers. He was convinced that he had a special mission to the Gentiles and that they were not bound by the Mosaic Law and so they should not be forced to follow the Mosaic Law. He challenged Peter and Barnabas to be straightforward with the truth of the Gospel and not behave one way with the Gentile converts and another way with the Jews.

Be straightforward with the truth of the Gospel!

Psalm 117

**Praise the Lord, all you nations,
Glorify him, all you peoples!
For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.**

Luke 11:1-4

The Rabbis used to teach their disciples simple prayers. John did the same for his disciples. The disciples of Jesus asked their master to do the same for them. In this excerpt, Luke tells us what Jesus taught in response to this request.

The first “three” petitions are about reverence for God - holy be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done - God first. All other things will then fall in their proper places. Prayer should not be our attempt to bend God’s will to our desires. It must be a surrender of our will to God’s will, bringing our will into harmony with God’s will. The second “three” petitions are about our needs and they cover all life, three essential needs in three spheres of time. The whole of life is brought before God: The present need - the hunger of the day/Bread for the day; past Sin - forgiveness for sin and future trials - testing times/help for meeting the test.

Pray constantly.... Pray with Confidence: “Your will be done”.

Saint of the Day, October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary and 14 saints are remembered this day

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, formerly known as the feast of Our Lady of Victory and Feast of the Holy Rosary, celebrates the 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe. Pope Pius V established this feast soon after.

Troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire had invaded and occupied the Byzantine empire by 1453, bringing a large portion of the increasingly divided Christian world under a version of Islamic law. For the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire westward on land and asserted their naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1565 they attacked Malta, envisioning an eventual invasion of Rome. Though repelled at Malta, the Turks captured Cyprus in the fall of 1570.

The next year, three Catholic powers on the continent – Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States - formed an alliance called the Holy League, to defend their Christian civilization against Turkish

invasion. Its fleets sailed to confront the Turks near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571.

Crew members on more than 200 ships prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle - as did Christians throughout Europe, encouraged by the Pope to gather in their churches to invoke the Virgin Mary against the daunting Turkish forces. Some accounts say that Pope Pius V was granted a miraculous vision of the Holy League's stunning victory. Without a doubt, the Pope understood the significance of the day's events, when he was eventually informed that all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

October 8 – Thursday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Serenity within puts a smile on your face
and sustains a welcoming disposition.**

Galatians 3:1-5

Paul tried to convince the Galatians that it is faith and not the works of the law that puts a person at right with God. He said to them that they received the Holy Spirit not because they knew the law but because they heard the good news of the Gospel and received it as an act of trust. He reminded them that God blessed them generously not because of their observance of the law but because of their spirit of faith.

Luke 1:69-75

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
He has come to his people.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.**

Luke 11:5-13

This excerpt from Luke is a parable on prayer followed by simple, clear and definite teaching on prayer. The parable is not a comparison, but a contrast. If an ordinary man, with all his limitations, would get up in the middle of the night and help a traveler because the traveler persists and keeps knocking at the door for help...what do you think God who knows and loves his children would do?

The main teaching here is that God, our Father knows our needs. So we must ask with confidence.....knowing that he knows and that he gives and that he will not hold back from his children the good things they need and that he will not fool his children with practical jokes and that he will not give his children anything that is injurious to their health.

God knows our needs and he will meet them when it is good for us and not necessarily when we think it is good for us.

Don't ask God for what you think is good.....Ask him for what he thinks is good for you.

Saint of the Day, October 8 - St. Pelagia and 16 other saints are remembered this day.

Pelagia, often known as Pelagia of Antioch, Pelagia the Penitent, and Pelagia the Harlot , was a hermit in the 4th or 5th century. She was also often called Margaret, on account of the magnificence of the pearls for which she had so often sold herself. She was an actress of Antioch, known for her beauty, her wealth, and the messy life that she lived.

During a synod at Antioch, she Heard Bishop St. Nonnus of Edessa preach and was so moved by his sermon that she asked him to baptize her which he did. She gave her wealth to Nonnus to aid the poor and left Antioch dressed in men's clothing. She became a hermitess in a cave on Mount of Olivette in Jerusalem, where she lived in great austerity, performing penances and known as "the beardless monk" until her sex was discovered at her death.

October 9 – Friday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Serenity comes from a stable home, safe environment,
opportunities for fulfillment and meaning for life.**

Galatians 3:7-14

Paul taught the Galatians to trust in God and to rely on their faith rather than the law. He says, "no one is justified in God's sight by the law..... the just man shall live by faith". Christ has delivered us from the power of the law and brought us into the power and freedom of the spirit.

Psalm 111

**I will give thanks to you O Lord, with all my heart;
in the company and assembly of the just.
Great are the works of the Lord,
exquisite in all their delight.**

Luke 11:15-26

Jesus was accused of being in league with the devil. Today's excerpt from Luke is the response of Jesus to this accusation. Slander and derogatory statements are very cruel arrows hurled against others. They often tend to stick. This is what they did to Jesus.

This is a call to be complimentary rather than derogatory in our ways. Think well of others. Speak well of others. Give others the benefit of the doubt.

Sufferers were healed and health had come where disease had been. This was a sign that the kingdom of God had arrived. **Reflect on bringing healing and wholeness to others.**

Jesus says: the man who is not with me is against me and the man who does not gather with me scatters. **This is a call to take a stand. One is either on the way or in the way!**

Jesus says again: it is not enough to remove evil from the heart (soul). You must fill it with the spirit.

Be filled with goodness and truth and justice and love and all God's gifts! The best way to avoid evil is to do good.

Saint of the Day, October 9 - Saint Denis and Companions and 26 other saints are remembered this day.

We do not have accurate information about St. Denis and companions (Rusticus and Eleutherius). The first mention we have of these saints comes in the sixth century writings of Saint Gregory of Tours. They were martyred around 258 C.E. Denis (or Dionysius as he is also called) is the most famous of the three. Born and raised in Italy, he was sent as a missionary to Gaul (now France) around 250 C.E. by Pope St. Clement along with five other bishops.

Denis is known as the first bishop of Paris and the Apostle of France. There he was captured by the Parisians along with Rusticus and Eleutherius about whom we have no further information. After a long imprisonment, the three were beheaded with a sword and their bodies were thrown into the river. Denis' body was retrieved from the Seine by his converts and buried.

In the ninth century, Denis' story and identity became fused and confused with Dionysius the Areopagite and Pseudo-Dionysius, but later scholarship has re-established his identity as a separate saint.

October 10 – Saturday, Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

**Serenity springs from a joyful readiness
and willingness to accept life with all its demands.**

Galatians 3:22-29

Paul says that the law was there to lead a person to Christ. The law could not take him into Christ's presence, but it could take him into a position where he himself might enter. Once a person had come to Christ, he no longer needed the law...he was no longer dependent on the law, but on grace. Those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ and they have become one in Christ without distinctions.

Psalm 105

**Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord.**

Luke 11:27-28

Jesus had healed a mute person, and the man began to speak. Some who witnessed it accused Jesus of being in league with the devil. A woman from the crowd cried out, "Blessed is the womb that bore you...." And Jesus replied, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it".

This is the second time that Jesus gave such wonderful complement to those who hear God's word and remain faithful. On one occasion when Jesus was addressing the crowd, his mother and relatives came to speak with him. When someone told Jesus about it, he said, "who is my mother and who are my brothers.....whoever does the will of my Father is brother and sister and mother to me". Jesus spoke of a new kind of relationship...one that goes far beyond blood relationships, what the Scriptures call "covenantal bond". And he spoke of a new kind of blessing and grace....one that goes far beyond accomplishments to fidelity to God and God's word.

Jesus calls us to enter into a relationship of love and obedience....an obedience that binds us together as brothers and sisters of Jesus. Our common obedience makes us true brothers and sisters. How blessed are those who share a common obedience.... how blessed the person who is faithful to God and God's word.

Saint of the Day, October 10 - Saint Francis Borgia and 298 other saints are remembered this day

Francis Borgia was born on October 28, 1510, in Gandia, Valencia, Spain. He belonged to one of the most prominent families of the kingdom of Aragon, a family that gave the Church two popes. A series of events, including the death of his wife, made Francis Borgia rethink his priorities. He gave up public life, gave away his possessions, and joined the new and little-known Society of Jesus. Francis was a man of prayer and had great administrative talents. He helped in the establishment of what is now the Gregorian University in Rome. Not long after his ordination, he served as political and spiritual adviser to the emperor. In Spain, he founded a dozen colleges.

At 55, Francis was elected head of the Jesuits. He focused on the growth of the Society of Jesus, the spiritual preparation of its new members, and spreading the faith in many parts of Europe. He was responsible for the founding of Jesuit missions in Florida, Mexico, and Peru. Francis Borgia is often regarded as the second founder of the Jesuits. He died on September 30, 1572, and was canonized on June 20, 1670, by Pope Clement X.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**To pray is to open ourselves to the Father so that our entire life
from the seeking of daily bread to the transformation of the world,
is filled with God's will and purpose.**

