

## Wellspring, Fransalian Center for Spirituality

August 10, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, we remember Saints Lawrence, Clare, Jane Frances Chantal, Maximilian Kolbe, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These great men and women of holiness and the Scripture readings of the masses in their remembrance call us to be men and women of prayer and to cultivate an attitude of prayerfulness. Prayerfulness is an attitude, an inner disposition of mind and heart, a hunger and a thirst, a longing and yearning, an impelling desire for God and God's ways. The hunger for God is itself God's gracious gift to us.

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. Jesus taught his disciples to begin prayer by giving honor, glory and praise to the name of God. Reverence to God must be first, before all else. The first "three" petitions are about reverence for God, about willing God's will first and all other things will then fall in their proper places.

Prayer should not be our attempt to bend God's will to our desires - but must be a surrender of our will to God's will - bringing our will into harmony with God's will. Surrender as a virtue is difficult for all people to understand and to practice. The word surrender is often confused with giving up. Surrender is not a word often associated with positive actions. Surrender is not giving up or giving in or resignation or submission because there are no other possibilities. Surrender is a very dynamic and positive experience. Surrender may be understood as "giving over" or "yielding" or still better would be "gifting". "Sur" means "back" and "Rendere" means give (in Latin) - meaning giving over or handing over.

Surrender means to yield ownership, to relinquish control over what we consider ours: our property, our time, our "rights", our desires. When we surrender to God, we are simply acknowledging that what we "own" belongs to Him. He is the giver of all good things. We are responsible to care for what God has given us, as stewards of His property, but by surrendering to God, we admit that He is ultimately in control of everything, including our present circumstances. Surrendering to God enables us to let go of whatever has been holding us back from God's best for our lives. By surrendering to God, we let go of whatever has kept us from wanting God's way first.

Let us choose to be men and women of prayer and cultivate an attitude of prayerfulness that seeks to surrender to God and God's will and purpose.

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

Fr. Gus

## **Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

### **August 10 – St. Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** Surrender to God is a choice we must make with every breath. We may not be happy about it right now, but in the bigger picture of life, we will be glad that we chose to surrender to God.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

### **Collect**

O God, giver of that ardor of love for you  
by which Saint Lawrence was outstandingly faithful  
in service and glorious in martyrdom,  
grant that we may love what he loved  
and put into practice what he taught.  
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.

### **Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Psalm 112**

#### **John 12:24-26**

The Greeks came to see Jesus. Jesus told them that his hour had come – time for total giving in suffering and death had come, “the grain of wheat must die” to become fruitful. Jesus told them what it would cost them to be his disciples: falling to the ground, dying, losing oneself, serving others, laying down one’s life, being raised up – total giving.

**Reflect on your call to accept the inconveniences, suffering, pain, cross - all of life’s struggles in faithfulness to God. Stand strong in faith during difficult times.**

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

They had to learn to let go of the standards of the world: power, prestige, wealth, name, fame, security. They had to accept the standards, the values of the kingdom: simplicity, humility, selfless service, self-gift, total giving.....

**Letting go is not easy and to let go of a sure and certain and secure thing in order to welcome something new and untried is even more difficult. Reflect on the challenge to let go of the world's standards and accept the way of Jesus!**

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

**Take a few moments to pray from your heart.....**

Remember our Holy Father Pope Francis, Bishop Joseph Strickland and all our spiritual leaders.

Remember our president and all leaders our country and the world and pray that God will enlighten them with His wisdom to make wise decisions during these difficult days.

Remember your most urgent need and that of your family and those in your care.

Remember those who are affected by COVID-19 and those who care for them.

Remember those who are searching for a cure for COVID-19.

Remember all who suffer and all who have no one to care for them.

Our Father...

### **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

**Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the Day, August 10 - St. Lawrence and 15 other saints are remembered this day.**

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**August 11 – Tuesday, Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** 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.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.  
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.

**Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 2:8 – 3:4; Psalm 119**

**Mathew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14**

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded, unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom. Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

Jesus told them the parable the lost sheep. Even one single sheep is precious. The loss of that single sheep is great. The joy of discovering the lost is even greater! So will it be with the re-discovery of every person! You are not just “another” in tens or hundreds or thousands or millions - you just are! **As you are, you are precious in the eyes of God!**

**Great is the loss if you are lost! Greater is the joy of your re-discovery! Even the angels will rejoice!**

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

**Take a few moments to pray from your heart.....**

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Bless me that I may give witness to your presence in my life. Amen

**Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the day, August 1 – St. Clare of Assisi and 14 other saints are remembered this day.**

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**August 12 – Wednesday, Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** Prayer is the peace of our spirit, the stillness of our thoughts, the evenness of our recollection, the seat of meditation, the rest of our cares, and the calm of our tempest.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.  
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.

## **Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10; 18-22; Psalm 113**

### **Mathew 18:15-20**

Jesus taught his disciples to make honest efforts to help one another recognize and correct the mistakes and wrong-doings. He taught them to spare no effort to correct a person. He also taught them to be patient in correcting brothers and sisters as God is patient and offer one another every chance for change.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

He taught them to treat them as Gentiles and tax collectors if they refuse to respond, after all efforts have been made. Jesus gave them his own example of how to treat Gentiles and tax Collectors, with understanding and compassion. Help and support one another realize mistakes and correct them.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

In this excerpt, Mathew makes special reference to the power and the responsibility of the community to forgive “to bind and to loose” and coming to experience the Lord’s presence in prayer, “where two or three are gathered...I will be there”. A community gathered and united in prayer has the power to forgive and to heal and hold each other as brothers and sisters in mutual love. A praying community is a forgiving and healing and loving community. Jesus promised them his presence whenever they are gathered in his name. “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”.

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**Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the day, August 12 - St. Jane Frances de Chantal and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

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**August 13 – Thursday, Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** 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.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,

we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.  
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.

## **Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 12:1-12; Psalm 78**

### **Mathew 18:21 - 19:1**

Jesus taught the disciples to forgive unconditionally and without limit. He called them to change their attitudes from seeing “three times forgiveness” as an ideal to seeing “limitless forgiveness” as the ideal to strive for. Christian standard of forgiveness must immeasurably exceed the best the world can achieve!

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

Jesus told them the parable of the tragedy of a debtor, who, after being forgiven his huge debt, failed to forgive his debtors. We are gifted with the gracious, generous, kind, and unconditional forgiveness of God. It is our call to forgive others as God has forgiven us. It is up to us to share the gift we have freely received.

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### **Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the day, August 13 - St. Hippolytus and 18 other saints are remembered this day.**

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### **August 14 – Friday, Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** Prayerfulness is being in the presence of someone who need not be forced to give, but to a Father who simply gives and loves to give.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

## **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance  
which you have promised.  
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.

**Scripture Readings:        Ezekiel 16:1-15 & 59-63; Response: Isaiah 12:2-6**

## **Mathew 19:3-12**

Ezekiel's message, "love is everlasting" (reflected in the first reading), is at the center of the teaching of Jesus in today's Gospel incident. God's love is everlasting. We are called to share that love which God has for us and learn to love the way God loves. Jesus taught, "Love one another as I have loved you". Jesus' comments on divorce must be understood in light of the call to love. Choices and commitments must be made in light of enduring love and not convenience.

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**Take a few moments to pray from your heart.....**

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### **Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the day, August 14 - St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe and 808 other saints are remembered this day**

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### **August 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Be Still:** Prayerfulness is being at home with God, safe and secure in his arms. Like the satisfied child who has stopped crying and is in its mother's arms, so can "my soul be with me" in the presence of God. (Ps. 131:2)

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

## **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,  
the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory,  
grant we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above,  
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.  
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.

**Scripture Readings: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6 & 10; Psalm 45; I Corinthians 15:20-26, 28**

## **Luke 1:39-56**

**The Magnificat is definitely revolutionary in its content and spirit. It speaks of four types of revolution:**

**(1) A Spiritual Revolution** - Greatness comes to the humble spirit. The spirit rejoices because God has been gracious to the humble state of being - all generations to come will speak wonderful things (call me blessed - speak well of me).

**(2) A Moral Revolution** - Chaos comes to Pride - the proud will be scattered. The plans of the proud will break down - renting of heart will happen.

**(3) A Social Revolution** - The mighty and the powerful will come down - the humble will be raised up. The world's standards will be turned upside down.

**(4) An Economic Revolution** - The hungry will be filled - the rich will go empty. A Christian society is where no one dares to have too much while others have too little.

**Dwell on these thought for a few moments before reading further.**

The Magnificat is a beautiful song. It is a song of praise. It is also a song that calls forth radical change - a conversion of individual and community - calls forth spiritual, moral, social and economic changes. The heart of the Gospel message carries a call to Conversion and transformation of individuals, communities, societies and the world. This is what Magnificat sings about.

**Dwell on this thought for a few moments before reading further.**

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**Spend a few moments in silent prayer**

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Saint of the day, August 15 - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and 6 other saints are remembered this day.**

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**"The prayer of the humble person pierces the clouds:  
It does not rest till it reaches its goal."  
*(Sirach 35:21)***