

## Wellspring, Fransalian Center for Spirituality

October 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is “World Mission Sunday”, a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement that Jesus began. It is celebrated on the Sunday before the last Sunday of October every year. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as the day of prayer for missions.

World Mission Sunday reminds us of our mission to continually proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, the good news of the all-embracing and steadfast love of God. Pope Francis says, “The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away.” The Church must continue to fulfill the mission of Jesus by proclaiming the salvation of Christ to all people.

The first reading of this Sunday and the responsorial Palm speak to the heart of the mission of the Church. Isaiah fulfilled his mission by speaking to a people who wondered how God could forgive a people who messed up their lives so many times. They were afraid that God would never forgive them for the infidelities of priests and people. Cyrus, the Persian emperor, had defeated many nations and finally Babylon in 539 B.C. and had become the ruler of the then middle east. He was very tolerant and understanding toward the exiles and helped them reestablish themselves in their homeland. Isaiah called his people to see how God used the hands of a pagan king, to deliver his people, though the king did not even know it. Such was the love God had for his people that He used “pagan hands” to save His people. God is a God of everlasting, constant, all-embracing, and steadfast Love. God continues to reveal his plan and purpose even through the most unexpected people and situations.

This is our mission today. We are called and sent to proclaim the all-embracing, and steadfast love of God for all people. We cannot all go to distant lands to fulfill this mission. We can do so where we are now. We live in confusing, difficult and unsettling times. The pandemic, Political unrest, racial tensions, violence in our cities, lack of confidence in leadership, and other disturbing and unhealthy things are happening all around us. Our world needs the Gospel of Jesus, the good news of the presence of a loving and compassionate God among us. World Mission Sunday calls us to stand our ground in our faith and give witness to the constant, all-embracing, and steadfast Love of God during these troublesome and uncertain times.

I encourage you to take a few moments each day of this week to reflect on fulfilling your mission in the Church by living a godly, noble, virtuous, and holy life during the unsettling days.

God bless you and your family

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

# Twenty-Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time

October 18, 2020

## Penitential Act

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

Let us acknowledge our sins and pray for forgiveness and peace.

A moment of silence for remembering your sinfulness

## Pray the formula of general confession:

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault.  
therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord have Mercy      Christ have Mercy      Lord have Mercy

## Collect

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.  
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.

## **First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

Cyrus had defeated many nations and finally Babylon in 539 B.C. and had become the ruler of the then middle east. He was very tolerant and understanding toward the exiles and helped them reestablish themselves in their homeland. Isaiah reflected on the attitudes and accomplishments of Cyrus and saw that God was at work in and through him. He says God used the hands of a pagan king, to deliver his people, though the king did not even know it. Such was the love God had for his people.

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

This is really the “Amazing Grace” – God had used the hands of a pagan king, Cyrus, without even his knowing, and through this “pagan hands” saved His people, Israel. God is a God of everlasting, constant, steadfast Love.

**God continues to reveal his plan and purpose even through the most unexpected people and situations. Be open to the surprises of the Spirit.**

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

## **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96**

This Psalm celebrates the return of the exiles from Babylon and the new beginning that God had offered them. The Psalmist calls the whole earth to sing to the Lord and tell the nations about the salvation God has won for His people, to glorify God for what He has done and to bring an offering of thanksgiving. This Psalm is a beautiful worship song, singing the praises of God who creates and renews and constantly makes new beginnings.

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

This Psalm also has a missionary dimension as it calls us to proclaim God’s salvation to all the nations. It proclaims the God of Israel as radically different from gods of all other nations. Our God is a God of Holiness, who does marvelous things, who judges all peoples with righteousness and loving kindness and a God of unfailing faithfulness. All peoples are to be reached with this good news.

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

This Psalm also is a beautiful Poem calling the heaven to be glad, the earth to rejoice, the sea to roar, the field to exult, the trees to sing for joy because God has created, renewed and established the world and “it shall never be moved”. This is the reason for singing a new song of joy.

God makes all things new. Each day is a new day and each day calls for a new song. Every day that we wake up is a good day. Every breath that we take is filled with hope for a better day. Every word that we speak is a chance to change what is bad into something good.

**Dwell on the thoughts and prayer of the Psalmist for a few moments.**

**Sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all you lands.  
Tell his glory among the nations;  
Among all peoples his wondrous deeds.**

**Pray the whole Psalm now – if not now, pray it later when you have a little more time**

### **Second Reading: I Thessalonians 1:1-5**

Paul was a good pastor. Paul wrote to the Thessalonian community encouraging them and affirming them in their works of love. He praised them for their progress in living the Gospel challenge. He acknowledged that theirs was a dynamic faith, lived out in hope and expressed in love. He told them how much he appreciated their faith and how encouraged and supported he felt when he came to know of their faithfulness in love. He assured them of remembering them constantly in prayer.

**Say a word of encouragement and support to someone today! Remember in prayer those who serve you in faithfulness and love!**

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

### **Gospel: Mathew 22:15-21**

In response to a trick question from the Herodians, Jesus revealed a great truth. They sought his opinion on paying tax to the emperor. He invited them to look at the coin and identify the image on the coin. The image on the coin indicated ownership. The coin belonged to the emperor since his image was on it. “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s”. Pay him what is due to him. Then he taught another great truth: “give to God what is God’s”. The coin has the image

of the emperor.....you have the image of God...give yourself to God. We are made in God's image and likeness and we must be faithful to that image.

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

The truth about every person is so incredibly rich and profound, beyond comprehension that the Scriptures have much to reveal to us.....

“in the divine image, He created him: male and female he created them” (Gen.1:27).

“made him less than the angels and crowned with glory” (Ps. 8:6).

“thank you God, for I am, fearfully, wonderfully made”, (Ps139:14)

“you are the Body of Christ” (I Cor. 12:27)

“you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God - being built to become a dwelling place for God in the spirit” (Eph.2:19-22)

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

**Loyalty to God takes priority over all else. Loyalty to God is fidelity to what God made you to be, obedience to what God wants you to do, striving to become what God wants you to become and faithfulness to all that is of God and from God.**

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

**Intercessions: 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...

**Gracious God, who renews your Church in every age, may we live each day in the light and life of Easter until we come into their fullness with your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, our Master and our Savior. Amen**

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

## **Prayer after Communion:**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.

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, October 18 - St. Luke, the Evangelist and 10 other saints are remembered this day.**

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

**The mission of the Christian in the world is a mission for all,  
a mission of service, which excludes no-one;  
it requires great generosity and in particular the gaze  
and heart turned heavenward to invoke the Lord's help.  
(Pope Francis-)**