

Daily Word of Life

May 2023

"Chosen to Bring Hope"

01	Mon	"Let brotherly love unite you to one another with tender affection, esteeming one another." (Rom 12:10) St. Joseph the Worker
02	Tue Jn 10:22-30	My sheep listen to my voice. We are able to more easily distinguish the voices of people with whom we already have a relationship. When we cultivate a sincere relationship with God by living the Word, we learn to recognize His voice in the midst of other voices. Often, the voices of selfishness and sin try to gain space in our soul, proposing destructive paths. Those who are intelligent, and have learned to love, know how to recognize the imperatives of good in every situation and decision. Listen to the voice of good.
03	Wed Jn 14:6-14 St. Philip and James	He who believes in me will do the works that I do. The act of believing, for us, is not only manifested in our feelings, in our intelligence, in our creativity, in our effort, in our tiredness and in our giving. It presents itself when we love, serve, announce and, above all, when we embrace the cross. Jesus' greatest work of love was manifested in it, when, embracing our miseries, he gave meaning to our lives. When difficulties appear, it is in Him that we have the certainty that it is worth moving forward by loving. Believing and doing good.
04	Thu Jn 13:16-20	Put the Word into practice. Jesus did not love with a love "in theory", He loved with concrete actions. When we accept to follow Him we are called to do the same. It is not enough to read and know things about the Word; that is only the beginning. He became one of us when He served, forgave, had compassion, shared, washed the disciples' feet and, above all, gave His own life. The Word that unites us to God and to our brothers and sisters is not a mere speech or a theory, but it is the presence of the One who is love, acting through us. Live love by doing good.
05	Fri Jn 14:1-6	Let not your heart be troubled. We can call our problems troubles, anxieties, afflictions, tribulations, or simply pains; but we can also call them "Jesus Forsaken"; then everything changes. Helping a person we love can make a difference in difficult times. Embracing Jesus, present in pain - because we love him - gives new meaning to what we experience. It is He, the way, the truth and the life, who opens eternity to us. So I can say: Jesus, present in this pain, I love you, I want you, and I embrace you. Go beyond the pain.
06	Sat Jn 14:7-14	Lord, show us the Father. "This is the goal towards which our life should tend: to encounter Jesus as Philip encountered him, seeking to see in him God himself, the heavenly Father. If this commitment were to be lacking, we would be always and only referred to ourselves as in a mirror, and we would be more and more alone! On the contrary, Philip teaches us to let ourselves be conquered by Jesus, to be with him, and to invite others also to share this indispensable company. And seeing him, finding God, finding true life." (Pope Benedict XVI, September 6, 2006)
07	Sun	5th Sunday of Easter - " I am the way, the truth and the life " (John 14:1-12)
08	Mon	"Let brotherly love unite you to one another with tender affection, esteeming one another." (Rom 12:10)
09	Tue Jn 14:27-31a	My peace I give to you. The peace left by Jesus is not passivity, but courageous action, a testimony of one who believes in love. The timidity of which the Gospel speaks can be seen as cowardice or fear. These are attitudes contrary to peace. To embrace Jesus in moments of conflict, misunderstanding, affliction and turmoil is the courageous decision of one who believes in his love. To give peace is the joyful and demanding conviction that good will always win and that in unity, we can live as children of a single Father. Promote peace.
10	Wed Jn 15:1-8	He who abides in me bears much fruit. Whoever considers himself self-sufficient, sooner or later runs into his own limitations. When we unite ourselves to the One who is unlimited love, we experience that, despite our insufficiency, the fruits come, because they come from God. In living the Word, producing fruit does not mean only obtaining results, but living a process of cultivation, care, pruning, waiting, and growth, because there is the confidence that in Him the good that we do remains for eternity. Maintain unity.
11	Thu Jn 15:9-11	May my joy be in you. Not just any joy, much less euphoria. It is healthy when we can rejoice in good things, in people, in special moments, in small or big achievements. But that lasts only for a while. What would it be like to experience in the soul a joy that does not pass? God is the only one who does not pass. He is always present. How about - in God, and for God - living each moment well? Small moments lived in love can become a source of joy and eternity. Seek true joy.
12	Fri Jn 15:12-17	May your fruit remain. In this life everything has its time, but then it passes away. The Word remains because it is love. When we share concrete experiences, we sow seeds of eternity into the soul of those who listen to us. This requires from us sincerity and truth, but, above all, if the testimony is authentic and springs from concrete actions; it is not just a pretty speech. The communion of experiences is a great act of love that can transform and save lives. Share the good.
13	Sat Jn 15:18-21 Our Lady of Fatima	You are not from the world. "We don't want appearance, but truth, and this gives us freedom, and true Christian freedom: to free oneself from this need for pleasure, to speak as the masses think it should be, and to have the freedom of truth, and in this way to recreate the world so that it is not oppressed by opinion, by appearance that no longer lets reality itself stand out. (...) the Lord help us to be free people in this non-conformism that is not against the world, but is the true love of the world." (Benedict XVI, February 15, 2012)
14	Sun	VI Sun. of Easter - " If you love me you will keep my commandments. " (Jn. 14:15-21)

15	Mon	"Let brotherly love unite you to one another with tender affection, esteeming one another." (Rom 12:10)
16	Tue Acts 16:22-34	Believe. When faced with some situations, despair and belief can happen in unexpected ways; one condemns and the other saves. The jailer in today's reading, in a moment of despair, wanted to destroy his own life, but because of the attitude of the apostles he was saved. The love we put into our small or big actions can lead others to believe and start over. A word, a smile, a gesture of help or closeness can change the day - and even the life - of someone. A heart that believes in love, that is, in God, attracts other hearts. Believe in the good.
17	Wed Jn 16:12-15	Believe in the Spirit of Truth. Distrust and fear usually complement each other. We fear being deceived, betrayed, stolen from, exposed, hurt, and ultimately losing our lives. Believing in God's love leads us to the challenge of overcoming fears by understanding that good is superior to evil. In the face of the lies of sin, selfishness and unlove, the Word invites us to love, seeing in the other person Jesus himself. The spirit of truth is unity, charity, forgiveness, love and hope. Believe in the power of goodness.
18	Thu Acts 18:1-8	Believe in the proclamation of the Word. Many times it is hard to understand what means to live the Gospel, even if we have a religious and faith formation. To believe in the Word is to believe in love. In our communities, the signs of recovery are manifested in the abandonment of negative attitudes and in the concrete good that someone is willing to do. It is a sign present in those who help, share, work together, treat others well, forgive, see the positive, etc. It is not discourse, it is attitude. It is love through actions. Believe in love.
19	Fri Jn 16:20-23a	Believe in the gift of Joy. Those who know true love experience a joy that neither drugs, nor people, nor money can give. There is always a power of God that lives in us and allows us to find joy again. In Him, even with difficulties, we can find reasons to rejoice. If we can't find it, how about starting to love again through small acts of love? We can smile more, give more thanks, trust God more, help more, and see the positive. To be joyful is a choice. Rejoice in the good.
20	Sat Jn 16:23b-28	The Father himself loves you. "God wants us to participate in his joy, divine and eternal, making us discover that the value and the deep meaning of our lives consist in being accepted, heard and loved by Him, and not with a fragile welcome as the human can be, but with an unconditional welcome, as is the divine: I am wanted, I have a place in the world and in history, I am personally loved by God. And if God accepts me, loves me, and of this I am certain, I know in a clear and certain way that it is good that I am in the world, that I exist. (Pope Benedict XVI, J.M.J 2012)
21	Sun	Ascension of the Lord - " I am with you all days, even to the end of the world. " (Mt 28:16-20) (The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins)
22	Mon	"Let brotherly love unite you to one another with tender affection, esteeming one another." (Rom 12:10)
23	Tue Jn 17:1-11	Recognize Jesus in the Word. Jesus is the Word of the Father who became flesh. He manifests himself in our lives in the love that we realize in his name. To live the Word is, in a way, to be another Jesus. He presents himself in every act of true love, in the word put into practice. To recognize him in this way is a concrete proposal for all those who believe in love. This week we can pray more intensively for unity among Christians. May Jesus Word lead us to full unity. Love concretely by building unity.
24	Wed Jn 17:11b-19	Recognize Jesus in love. This love is visible among us when the environment in which we live is favorable to the life of unity and shows, in concrete acts, the presence of Jesus. In loving our neighbor, we love Jesus. It is a love that teaches us to smile, to ask forgiveness, to do something for the other, to serve, and ultimately to generate unity. It is the testimony that, as Christians, we can give to the world: overcome prejudices, hurt and misunderstandings, and testify that there is only one love, Jesus, who gave his life for all. Love manifesting unity.
25	Thu Jn 17:20-26	Recognize Jesus in unity. To live unity, one can begin with very small gestures. It starts with the desire to love the other by doing something good. Sometimes we will have to overcome our timidity, judgments, prejudices and petty criteria. But if we believe that unity generates the presence of Jesus among us, we will have the necessary creativity to overcome distances and fears. When the life of the Gospel touches us we are able even to reinvent ourselves in the capacity to love. Live unity with creativity.
26	Fri Jn 21:15-19 St. Philip Neri	Recognizing Jesus, starting over. For Peter, who denied Jesus three times, this moment may have caused a lot of shame, but it certainly marked a new beginning. He knows that he was not able to love Jesus as much as he was loved by Him, but he also knows that his heart is sincere and he is willing to start over. We certainly realize that we are not able to love at all times as we would like to, but something we can always do is to start again. To start over is also to love. Know how to start over.
27	Sat Jn 21:20-25	Bearing Witness. "The Holy Spirit desires unity (...) Whoever has found something true, beautiful, and good in his own life, the only authentic treasure, the inestimable pearl, rushes to share it everywhere, in the family and at work, in all spheres of his existence. And he does so without any fear, because he knows he has received the adoption as a son; without any presumption, because everything is a gift; and without discouragement, because the Spirit of God precedes his action in the "hearts" of men (...)" (Pope Benedict XVI, June 3, 2006)
28	Sun	Pentecost - " Receive the Holy Spirit. " (Jn 20:19-23)
29	Mon	"Let brotherly love unite you to one another with tender affection, esteeming one another." (Rom 12:10) Mary Mother of the Church
30	Tue Mk 10:28-31	Follow Jesus. Each of us can follow Jesus according to our own vocation and possibility. Worries, our daily life, projects or people will prevent us from following Him, only if we allow it. It is an invitation that touches the life of prayer, of work, of living together, of study, among other things. Our faithfulness, personal self-giving, and willingness to serve in every concrete gesture is the great possibility to discover what is the call of God for our life. What is your vocation? Live your own vocation.
31	Wed Lk 1:39-56 Our Lady's Visitation	The Almighty has done great things in me. Mary's song praises the greatness of a God who visits us, meets us and becomes one of us. We have in today's Gospel the impulse to thank God for what he has done for us, but also the invitation to go towards others with our joy, our words, our silence, our gestures, and above all, with our service. Encountering people, much more than making contacts, is for us a culture that allows us to establish bonds of solidarity. Go towards the other.

* *Jesus Forsaken - An expression of the Focolare Movement that signifies the suffering of Jesus on the Cross, who feels abandoned by humanity and God, expressed in the cry "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"*