



# Word of the Month

December of 2017

01	Fri Lc 21, 29-23 Blessed Charles de Foucolt	<b>My words will not pass.</b> What is true never passes. Feelings pass, works and people too. What you and I do for love, remains for eternity. The Word we live on this earth leads us to a reality that does not end. It is unfortunate that many live only for what passes. If today we have the disposition to love doing good, we will realize at the end of the day that, God allows us to experience, in this life, today, drops of eternity. <i>Let's stay in love.</i>
02	Sat Lk 21, 34-36	<b>Embrace the cross.</b> Create courage, close the eyes of your heart that rebels, of nature that reluctantly, go beyond! Embrace the Cross! ... you will notice that in it you will find Jesus! Then, uniting your wounded heart with His, you will fill yourself with a sweetness that overcomes all bitterness, a love that makes the pain disappear! ... Love the Cross if you want to love Him. Only in it is our hope. (Chiara Lubich, Jesus Forsaken, page 42)
03	Sun	First Sunday of Advent - " <b>Watch</b> ". (Mk 13, 33-37)
04	Mon	Word of the Month - " <b>Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Let it be done to me according to your Word.</b> " (Lk 1:38)
05	Tue Is 11, 1-10	<b>The wolf and the lamb will live together.</b> Each of us has something that makes us unique. We are different, but there are things that make us the same. One is the ability to love. Love goes beyond differences and calls us to live in harmony, whether it is between a Christian and an atheist, a Catholic and an evangelical, a German and a Brazilian, a young man and an elder, etc. Overcoming judgment, prejudice, bitterness and hurt is the condition for building unity. Differences, in love, can unite us. <i>Let's live in harmony.</i>
06	Wed Mt 15: 29-37 St. Nicholas	<b>How many loaves of bread do you have?</b> The attitude of giving always causes some "miracles". It does not matter if the donation was small or large. What matters is the size of love in the act of giving. When we give, the grace of God comes in abundance. This miracle the selfish does not experience. We can give many smiles, good words, things, time, prayers for someone, patience, financial help ... And we will see that we multiply love, joy and hope in our hearts and in the hearts of those we meet. What do we have to donate? <i>Let's Donate.</i>
07	Thu Mt 7, 21: 24-27 Saint. Ambrose	<b>Build the house on the rock.</b> Whoever wants to build hastily runs the risk of building badly. Recovery or life taken anyway, or in half, already indicates that sooner or later the house will fall. Where God is the foundation, all is secure. We build in Him when we are able to dig our own hearts and life with concrete actions. To help, to donate, to wash, to organize, to go beyond the schedule, to renounce, to live the Word of God, becomes matter for a secure base. Do we want to build on rock or sand? <i>Let's build the good.</i>
08	Fri Lk 1: 26-38 <b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>Rejoice ... the Lord is with you.</b> When God asks us for something, He also gives us grace. Mary received the mission of begetting Jesus. She is declared "spotless," unsullied, because she carries the spotless lamb that takes away the filth of sin from us. When we welcome and take on God's plan in our life He himself purifies our way of thinking, acting and feeling. Mary, by a special grace was preserved by God. Let us ask the grace of being purified by love to give Jesus to the world. <i>Let's seek for purity.</i>
09	Sat Is 30, 19-21-23-26	<b>Prepare Christmas.</b> We begin a new path ... towards Christmas, which is not only a beautiful party, nor a memory of a beautiful fact .... Christmas is more: Let's go this way to find Jesus. Christmas is an encounter with the heart, with the life, to find the Lord alive, with faith .... When it is He who enters within us, it is He who remakes everything, because that is the arrival of the Lord. He remakes our heart, soul, life, hope and path ... but we must have an open heart. (Pope Francis, 02/12/13).
10	Sun	II Sunday of Advent - " <b>A voice cries out in the wilderness</b> " (Mk 1: 1-8)
11	Mon	Word of the Month - " <b>Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Let it be done to me according to the Word of God.</b> " (Lk 1:38)
12	Tue Lk 1: 39-47 <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>	<b>My spirit rejoices in God, my savior.</b> The praise of Mary can be ours. Elizabeth recognizes the action of God in Mary and Mary recognizes God in her action. Recognizing God's action always brings joy. We have the possibility of recognizing his presence at every moment and particularly in pain. In God every challenge, even pain, can turn into praise and joy.
13	Wed Mt 11, 28-30 St. Luzia	<b>Come to me and I will give you rest.</b> There is a burden that depletes our soul and the strength we have to live. Everyone who carries a hidden burden in the soul knows what it is about. There is someone who has the power to take that burden and turn it into life. Why carry a weight that hurts? Are we going to enjoy this time of preparation for Christmas to give our burdens to Him? <i>Let's deliver what weighs.</i>
14	Thu Is 41, 13-20 St. John of the Cross	<b>Do not be afraid. I'll help you.</b> Today's Word, taken from the prophet Isaiah, is addressed to all, but particularly to those who feel crushed, oppressed, abandoned, failed, or facing some great challenge. God has not forgotten us and will never forget. If we are able to have our eyes open to goodness on that day, we will realize that, despite our disbelief and rebellion, He continues to reach out to us, to draw us in and embrace us. "we shall stick to Hope." <i>Let's renew hope.</i>
15	Fri Is 48, 17-19	<b>I the Lord, teach you useful things.</b> The "usefulness" of the Word of God is always love, the good. He teaches, in the Word of God, true wisdom. In the "lessons of God" we learn to forgive, to help, to love the

		enemy, to go beyond difficulties, to begin again ... These are the love lessons of the Father's heart.
16	Sat Mt 17, 10-13	<b>Prepare the Christmas of Jesus.</b> Christmas is approaching and the streets are covered with lights. An endless row of shops ... boys and girls on sleds ... Santa Claus ... puppets and red dwarfs. But in my heart, unbelief, and then almost revolt: This rich world "seized" of Christmas and "dislodged Jesus"! Bet on Christmas with a view to the greatest profit .... But do not think about Jesus. There was no place for Him in the inn ... not even for Christmas .... That at least in all our houses the name of the One who was born screams, preparing an unparalleled feast. (Chiara Lubich, from the text "Dislodged Jesus").
17	Sun	III Sunday of Advent - " <b>I am the voice crying in the wilderness.</b> " (Jn 1,6-8, 19-28)
18	Mon	<b>Word of the Month - "Behold the handmaid of the Lord! Let it be done to me according to your Word.</b> "(Lk 1:38)
19	Tue Lk 1, 5-25	<b>He dignified to take me out of public humiliation.</b> At the Farm of Hope this word means a lot. Zechariah had doubts, and many did not believe that an old woman would give birth. Love overcomes doubts. God can recover people and do the miracle where they are not expected. For those who believe and live concretely, the miracle happens. To love the other, not to retaliate, to make oneself small, to be humble, to serve ... is not humiliation. Humiliation is living in error by not believing that Love can work miracles. <i>Let's believe.</i>
20	Wed Lk 1, 26-38	<b>To God nothing is impossible.</b> It is a true Word and not an argument for selfish intentions or actions. To receive grace, Elizabeth and Mary lived their fidelity and trust in God. Whoever for love, in the face of difficulties, trust and do everything that is possible, sees the impossible become a possibility. And when you cannot change a situation, you always find the possibility to love. <i>Let's love to the end.</i>
21	Thu Lk 1, 39-45 St. Peter Canisio	<b>It will be fulfilled what the Lord has promised you.</b> In this time when compromises and alliances are broken easily, it is difficult to rely on promises. Mary is declared happy, blessed, because she believed in the promise of God. Whoever believes in the Word of God and puts it into practice, experiences the good that God does. Those who have discovered a new life in Love are in a hurry to do good. In our preparation for Christmas, just like Mary, who went to meet Elizabeth, we can go to the brothers doing good things. Every act of love is a possibility to build Christmas. <i>Let's trust doing good.</i>
22	Fri Lk 1, 46-55	<b>My spirit rejoices in God.</b> It is the song of Mary's joy. She found many reasons to rejoice and thank. We have many reasons to thank God. Let us look for opportunities to love and reasons to thank during the day, always returning with good. <i>Let's have greatfulness.</i>
23	Sat	<b>Prepare the party and the heart for Christmas.</b> "What makes me have such a hard heart that I cannot cry? Of all the appropriate times we have throughout the year, this is most appropriate for the hard of heart. Cherish the holy time that we are and consider this week as the holiest of all of the year. It is a holy week, and if you do well and prepare yourselves as you know, the hardness of heart will surely be taken away from you." (St. John of Avila, Sermon on Christmas).
24	Sun	IV Advent Sunday - " <b>The Lord is with you</b> " (Lk 1: 26-38)
25	Mon	<b>Christmas of the Lord - "Today the Savior is born for us, who is Christ the Lord."</b> (Luke 2: 1-14)
26	Tue Mt 10, 17-22 Saint. Stephen Deacon	<b>Anyone who perseveres till the end will be saved.</b> Whoever gives up often experiences defeat before having tried. The sorrows reach, to a greater or less degree, for all. Who puts his trust in God, is like St Stephen. He did not deny Him in whom He believed because He experienced that His Word is true. Let's be firm. Difficulties pass, but love with which we embrace them always remains. <i>Let's Persevere.</i>
27	Wed Jn 20: 2-8 St. John the Evangelist	<b>See and believe.</b> At Christmas people saw beyond a baby wrapped in cloths. Here John and Peter see beyond dirty cloths that enveloped a dead body. He who believes in Love can see beyond appearances. The "cloths" of fragility and death manifest more than we can see. Is there some sad news? Does someone make us suffer? Does a memory make us sick? We can lay everything on the ground of God's love. Then let us announce with concrete actions the new life that we have discovered. <i>Let's see with the heart.</i>
28	Thu 1 Jo 1, 5-2.2 Holy Innocents	<b>If we walk in the light we are in communion with one another.</b> Sometimes we look at people and the world from our darkness. All carry the light of God even if it is hidden. This light returns to manifest itself when we begin to love again in a life of sharing and true communion. It is a day to forgive, to start over, to improve living together and to escape isolation by doing good. <i>Let's build unity.</i>
29	Fri 1 John 2: 3-11 St. Thomas Becket	<b>Whoever hates his brother walks in darkness.</b> Hatred and sorrow darken life. When we do not forgive, we carry the evil that the other has done to us. It is this evil that we will give to others in many decisions and reactions. When we forgive, we give up evil and have a free soul for Good. It is this good that we will give to those who are close and to whom it is far. Whoever belongs to Him does as He did. On the cross He forgave. <i>Let's forgive.</i>
30	Sat 1Jo 2, 12-17	<b>Your sins have been forgiven.</b> 'I will forget and not remember your sins.' This is also an invitation not to lead the Lord to remember sins, that is, not to sin anymore. The Lord has forgiven me, forgot, but I owe a debt to the Lord ... change of life. The New Covenant renews me and makes me change my life; not only change the mentality and the heart, but the life. Therefore, live without sin, far from sin. This is the true re-creation of the Lord." (Pope Francis: 01/20/2017)
31	Sun	Holy Family - " <b>My eyes have seen your salvation</b> " (Lk 2: 22-40)

Comments usually prepared for the daily meditations of the youths of the Farm of Hope.

The Word of Life of the Month can be found at [www.focolare.org](http://www.focolare.org).

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