



Daily Word of Life

February 2018

01	Thu Mk 3.20-21	Observe the Lord's precepts. This Word is the "testament" of a father to his son. It is a gift that you cannot buy with money. The Word of God, in which the fundamental law is always love, is the source of wisdom. We have an infinitely wise master in the art of loving. With Him we learn to forgive, to give, to share, to live with the family, and more. The practice of the Word of God makes us happy people. <i>Let's live the law of love.</i>
02	Fri Lc 2.22-40 (Presentation of Jesus in the Temple)	Recognize the presence of Jesus. Simeon, because he was faithful in his relationship with God, recognized who this boy was. We can also recognize him when we are attentive to his voice, which speaks to our hearts. It is a voice that allows one to perceive His presence in each person, in unity, in pain, in acts of kindness, and so on. Every action or situation of the day is a possibility to recognize it. <i>Let's recognize the good.</i>
03	Sat Mk 6.30-34 (St. Blaise)	To have compassion [...] "feelings of melancholy, sadness and boredom often arise, which may gradually lead to despair. There is a need for witnesses of hope and true joy, to expel the chimeras that promise an easy happiness the deep emptiness of so many people can be filled by the hope we have in our hearts and by the joy that flows from it. There is so much need to recognize the joy that is revealed in the heart touched by mercy! (Pope Francis Apostolic Letter Misericordia et Misera, 3)
04	Sun Mk 1.29-39	Jesus cured many people of many illnesses
05	Mon Rev 21.6	To him who thirsts, I will freely give of the fountain of life-giving water. Jesus uses the meaning of "living water" to become a symbol of the gift that He came to bring to mankind. Just as water is extremely precious in the arid lands, the gift of Jesus generates the supernatural life in you and satisfies your deep thirst.
06	Tue Mk 7.1-13	To honor God with the lips and with the heart. It is important to follow the laws and regulations. However, Jesus testified that love is the law that gives meaning to everything. When our way of thinking, customs or rules, religions become more important than the love of God and neighbor, we nullify the Word of God. Our participation in prayers, sharing, moments of spirituality, work and coexistence bear fruit when we are willing to love. When we love, life makes sense. <i>Let's live the law of love.</i>
07	Wed Mk 7.14-23	Keep purity of heart. We spread a lot of dirt with our rudeness, malicious comments and attitudes, judgments, gossip, manipulations and so many other evils. Many evils are born of wounded hearts that have not learned to forgive. He who forgives and resumes is capable of doing good to all mankind. Let's watch today what comes out of our hearts. <i>Let's think, feel and do good.</i>
08	Thu Mk 7.24-30 (St. Josephine Bakhita)	Be humble. Jesus loves always. Why, then, did he respond so hard to the woman? At times, certain hardnesses we carry need hard answers from God to be broken. Often the evils we see in others are first in ourselves. Humbleness expels from our lives demons of pride, selfishness, indifference and judgment, among others. Whoever becomes humble grows up with corrections and experiences miracles. Let's do good with humbleness.
09	Fri Mk 7.31-37	Open yourself to God's action. The love of God only acts in our life when we make space. It all starts with a personal decision. Choosing vice, sin, hatred is to close yourself to others, yourself and God. To be open to God and to the brothers and sisters is to "open up for forgiveness," "to open a new beginning," to open smiles, dialogues, acts of love, in short, to open oneself to be family. Whoever opens himself to the good becomes free. <i>Let's open for good.</i>
10	Sat Mk 8.1-10	Hand out the loaves. "Even today, whole populations are suffering from hunger and thirst, and there is a great concern about the images of children who have nothing to eat." Multitudes of people continue to migrate from one country to another in search of food, work, home and peace. disease ... is a permanent cause of distress that requires help, consolation and support ... God Himself remains unknown to many today: this constitutes the greatest poverty and the greatest obstacle to the recognition of the inviolable dignity of life "(Pope Francisco Misericordia and Misera 18)
11	Sun Mk 1.40-45	VI Sunday of Ordinary Time - "The leprosy disappeared and he was healed." (1.40-45)
12	Mon Rev 21.6	To him who thirsts, I will freely give of the fountain of life-giving water. Jesus uses the meaning of "water" to speak of a higher, invisible and divine reality. The "living water" becomes a symbol of the gift that He came to bring to mankind. Just as water is extremely precious in the arid lands, the gift of Jesus generates the supernatural life in you and satisfies your deep thirst.
13	Tue Mk 8.14-21	To understand, to comprehend, and to practice. In the holy writings, "understanding" and "comprehending" have the meaning of "perceiving" and "getting the idea". To get into life. The "sour" and limited way of thinking hardens the heart and distances us from the immense project of love that God wants to entrust to us. It is essential to cast off the leaven of anger, sorrow and selfishness through forgiveness and acts of love. Petty and limited ideas can ruin and destroy many lives. <i>Let's embrace the idea of good.</i>
14	Wed Mt 6-1.18-18 (St. Cyril and St. Methodius) Ash Wednesday - Day of fasting and penance:	"Your Father ... will give you the reward." The time of Lent is important for a life review. It is time for renunciation and penance. In these forty days, we can assume the proposal of giving up something that later becomes a help for others. We could at this time make a proposal for community renunciation and personal resignation.
15	Thu Lk 9.22-25	Renounce to yourself. Sometimes we get the impression that if we give up certain things, ideas, projects, behaviors or even the painful experiences of the past, we will lose our identity. Not really. Certain feelings, thoughts and attitudes close us in ourselves and hide the true gifts we have. The best renunciation is that which is done because of something better. When we have the courage to renounce because of the One who is Love, we discover the best in ourselves and in others and open ourselves to eternity. <i>Our identity is love.</i>
16	Fri	Live charity. Religious practices are positive, but when separated from love and mercy, they become empty rituals. We can

	Is 58,1-9	unite prayer and action, penance and charity. We can share something from our wardrobe, start over with who we are not well, take on an activity that no one likes, speak well of those with whom we have difficulties, visit a sick etc., loving God in each one. Who loves is happy, and who is happy is much healthier. <i>Let's be happy doing good.</i>
17	Sat Lk 5.27-32	How can I convert? 'Learn to do good!' ... The filth of the heart [...] is removed as the 'doing': to take a path ... a road different from that of evil. And how do I do good? It's simple! 'Seek justice, help the oppressed, do justice to the fatherless, defend the cause of the widow ... in Israel, the poorest and most needy were the orphans and the widows ... go where the wounds of humanity are, where there is so much pain ... And so, by doing good, you will wash your heart (Pope Francis 03/03/2014)
18	Sun	1st Sunday of Lent - "Repent and believe in the Gospel." (Mark 1: 12-15)
19	Mon Ver 21.6	To him who thirsts, I will freely give of the fountain of life-giving water. Jesus does not give you a certain amount of water, which you should then seek each day. Living water becomes "source," that is, "force" that acts within you that gives a new vitality, which penetrates your whole being and through you also acts in others.
20	Tue Mt 6.7-15	To forgive. Forgiveness is a gift from God that works only in us as we give it to the other. What prevents us from forgiving? Normally, it is the difficulty in giving to God, casting away the pains of the past. It's a circle of death. We do not forgive because we keep and while we keep we do not forgive. Thus, we accumulate negative feelings and block the beautiful gifts that we possess. Forgiveness frees us and helps us build true relationships. How about we be free and happy? <i>Let's forgive</i>
21	Wed Lk 11,29-32 (St Peter Damian)	Convert yourself. To change one's life one has to acknowledge one's own failings, abandon one's negative attitudes, give one's pains of the past and one's own sins. Then you have to do good in a concrete way. "Conversion" is to begin again according to the path of goodness. Be someone better by doing good.
22	Thu Mk 16,13-19 (Cathedral of St. Peter)	I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Through the Gospel we have the possibility of opening and experiencing some of the heaven here on earth. Peter did not receive a title or a position, but the grace of, in front of his brothers, to witness with the life of God's love. Whoever welcomes the Good News of evangelical love becomes free, for it detaches itself from the evils of the past. To recognize Jesus in people, in pains and in events is the key to opening the doors of paradise here. <i>Let's connect to the good.</i>
23	Fri Ezek 18. 21-28 (Saint Polycarp)	Abandon evil by doing good. It is difficult to admit that we do evil, we are vindictive, gossipy, slanderers, liars, immoral, selfish, explosive, among so many attitudes of death. God gave us life for good. Feeling guilty is an evil instrument of destruction because it values evil and despair. True repentance, no matter how much pain, leads one to believe in Love again and to start over. This time the Word of God calls for a radical change of life. <i>Let's start loving again.</i>
24	Sat Mt 5, 43-48	Live fasting by loving your neighbor. "Whoever fast, think in the meaning of fasting; be sensitive to the hunger of others, who wants God to be sensitive to his; be merciful who hopes to achieve mercy; those who ask for compassion, also have compassion, who wants to be helped, help others. It is very bad in supplication who denies to others what he asks for himself." (St. Peter Chrysologus, Sermon 43)
25	Sun Mk 9. 2-10	Second Sunday of Lent - "This is my beloved Son! Listen to him!" (Mark 9: 2-10)
26	Mon Rev 21.6	To him who thirsts, I will freely give of the fountain of life-giving water. This water does not have the same fate as the natural water which, when it stagnates, will rot. Instead, it gushes into you into eternal life. Giving the water that generates the supernatural life. Jesus present within you, as a new life, produces a whole new way of being. It is He who lives in you.
27	Tue Is 1,10. 16-20 (St. Juliano)	Learn to do good! Generally no one needs training to do evil. But the practice of good requires learning. Small daily gestures like washing someone else's plate, tidying someone's bed, giving something, at first may seem artificial, but they do work. Waiting to "feel" and then "doing" limits us and makes us dependent on our feelings. Love goes beyond. Doing good is a "decision" that sometimes requires of us the courage to embrace hardship and suffering. <i>Let's practice the good.</i>
28	Wed Mt 20, 17-28 Saint Hilarious	Whoever wants to be first, be your servant. "Power," when not managed fairly, can destroy lives. In the life of the Word of God there is a difference between being "chief" and having "authority." True authority is in charity. Leadership is necessary. Authoritarianism is not. True leadership recognizes the worth and dignity of people. At the end of our lives, there will remain no charges, successes or failures, but the love given in the good that was done to others. <i>Our authority is love.</i>

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.

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