



Daily Word of Life

January 2018

01	Mon Ex 15,6	Your right, Lord, majestic in power, God is mighty, the Almighty. We are miserable. But our impotence, our poverty - if we love God - may be useful to us. If the Father of Heavens wanted Jesus to be our brother, it is because we were in bad conditions, hurt in the soul, sinners. Sin must be hated. But the coming of Jesus to the earth can kill us with joy.
02	Tue Jn 2, 22-28 (S. Basilus and Gregory)	Remain within you that which you have heard from the beginning. The fundamental commandment we hear when we discover the life of the Word of God is that of love for God and neighbor. We practice this teaching when, by God we direct our actions for good. In every decision, in every attitude, we can always ask ourselves about our fidelity to this proposal. <i>Let's renew our lives with acts of love.</i>
03	Wed Jn 2,29-3-6	We are children of God. It is only right for the children to share the name, the goods and the difficulties of the family, just as it is right for them to share the wealth of charity, the love, that we live among us. Something is "fair" when it is right. As God has given us is love. We can be recognized as your children when our decisions, words, activities, ideas and relationships are marked by charity. <i>Let's grow in charity.</i>
04	Thu Jn 1,35-42	Come and see. Jesus did not answer with explanations. He invited the disciples to an experience of coexistence with Him. Love does not compel, but invites to experience. We discover where He lives and who He is if we are able to live with Him the simple things of daily living. Do the people's efforts to live well, doing good things for them. How about pouring that coffee, fixing that bed, giving something, having patience, giving in, because of Love? <i>Let's coexist with acts of love.</i>
05	Fri Jn 3,11-21 (Sto. Arnaldo Janssen)	We passed from death to life, because we love our brother. Hatred, anger, selfishness, indifference, closure are instruments of death. Lack of forgiveness and hurt are signs that there is something wrong with us. Love does not "like". It is to want and do good to the other, even when we think the other does not deserve it. "To pass" is also to cross, to go beyond. We go beyond pain when we embrace in it who is our life, and love it with acts in each brother. <i>Let's go beyond pain, doing good.</i>
06	Sat	Hear the voice of God. It is necessary to isolate this voice, as if extracting a diamond from the mud, polishing it, displaying it and giving it at the right moment, because it is love and love is like the fire that, fed ..., it burns, otherwise it goes out ... Let us run, for the light is only lit in the soul in which love is in motion, it is alive. (Chiara Lubich, Ideal and light, pg 194)
07	Sun Mt 2,1-12 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	- "They saw the Child with his mother ... and worshiped him." (Mt 2: 1-12)
08	Mon Ex 15.6	Your right, Lord, majestic in power Jesus on earth ... with us ... says: "If you ask my Father in my name, he will give it to you" (Jn 14: 13-14), as the good son says to the rebellious brother who he has compassion of: "Go there and ask Daddy in my name", certain that he will get more easily.
09	Tue Mk 1.21b-28	Eject evil. We were created by the Good to do good. When we give space for negative things to remain in our souls, we stain the beauty of the love that lives in us. There is a loving presence that can drive out evil from our lives. He teaches us by his Word to give up the bad events of our history, our evils, through forgiveness, Jesus, walking with the disciples, shows that life with Him in unity has authority against all evil. <i>Let's live the good by living the unity.</i>
10	Wed Mk 1.19-39 (St. Gregory X)	Get up and serve. Certain diseases of the soul only heal when we allow ourselves to be touched in our fevers and wounds. Whoever lets himself be touched by the Word of God, is healed by Love, becomes available, and builds family relationships where he lives. Who loves, helps and serves the other. One of the signs of healing, both for the body and for the soul, is good disposition. Are we ready today? Let's start early. <i>Let's love, serving.</i>
11	Thu Mk 1.40-45	I want to: get cured. God always wants our good, even when we do not realize it. However, healing certain evils we have only happens if we also want to. The healing of the soul is not done with magic rituals. When we want and allow our wounds, our inner leprosy to be touched, we are healed of the painful marks of the past. To want is more than a simple desire. It's decision. <i>Let's want and do good.</i>
12	Fri Mk 2.1-12 (+ Zilda Arns, Haiti, 2010)	Your sins are forgiven. Sin paralyzes life, but forgiveness gives us the ability to rise and move on. The confession of our sins and the forgiveness we give to the other set us free. There are people with life paralyzed because of unforgiven pain. Many who do not forgive themselves for a mistake of the past also carry something that they have not forgiven in someone. There are times when, to forgive and start over, we need to ask for the grace of God and accept our brothers' help. <i>Let's search for forgiveness.</i>
13	Sat Mk 2.13-17 (St Hilarius of Poitiers)	Love everyone. "After having experienced the unparalleled value of pain ... God in the form of mercy, who opens the arms and the heart to the unfortunate, the beggars, the marginalized, the repentant sinners, love that knows how to welcome the misguided, whether it be a friend, brother or stranger, and forgive endless times. Love that feeds a sinner back to a thousand righteous... Love that does not measure and will not be measured. (Chiara Lubich Ideal and Light pg 127)
14	Sun Jn 1.35-42	- "They went to see where he lived and stayed with him". (Jn 1: 35-42)
15	Mon Ex 15.6	Your right, Lord, majestic in power Perhaps we are also a little powerful in the Heart of the Father, if we show ourselves as we are: miserable beings who may have done quite some bad, but who say, repentant and reconciled in His love: "After all, if you came to our means, because our weakness has drawn you, our misery has wounded you to compassion."
16	Tue ISm 16.1-13	Man sees appearances, the Lord looks at the heart. To live by appearances is to live in illusion. Because of the appearance, we spend what we do not have with things we do not need, we lie, we humiliate ourselves, we become superficial and we represent characters. The "appearance" hides the pains of the soul. Who, like David, dares to present himself in his smallness and weakness, discovers in himself such a great strength and beauty that it can only come from God. Love makes us authentic people. Let us be authentic in love.

17	Wed Mk 3.1-6 (St. Anthony the Great)	Reach out a hand. There are people who take care of their own physique, but are incapable of loving. Others, even with physical limits, seek to do good. We meet a missionary priest who, in a wheelchair, gives himself up to rescue the lives of young people who were on drugs. We know men and women with HIV who in our Casa do Sol Nascente give testimony of love and welcome to all who arrive. And if health limits us, we can pray and treat people well. He who loves extends more than the hand. Extends the heart. <i>Let's overcome ourselves by doing good.</i>
18	Thu Mk 3.7-12	Touch Jesus. To heal certain evils we carry we need more than our willpower. There is someone with an extraordinary strength that, when he enters our history, leaves no room for evil to overcome us. How to touch Him? Casting us into the life of the Word of God. The Word of God gives us the courage to meet people and do good, in the way we can. Let's start inside with simple gestures. There is always something good that we can do for someone. Let's love with concrete gestures.
19	Fri Mk 3.13-19	Go to Jesus. Jesus did not want to do good alone. He called brothers and formed a true family with them. To do good, we do not even need a PhD or millions of the lottery, and we do not even need to be Christians. Doing good with the Word of God, is for those who dispose themselves to live unity, generating the presence of Jesus in concrete gestures. The good for us has a name. <i>Let's live the unity with acts.</i>
20	Sat Mk 3.20-21	Keep the unity. When unity with brothers becomes difficult, it is necessary never to break, but to bend, until love does the miracle of one heart and one soul. It is better the less perfect, but in unity with the brothers, than the most perfect, but in disunity with them; for perfection is not in ideas or wisdom, but in charity. (Chiara Lubich, never break, Ideal and Light, pg 151)
21	Sun Mk 1.14-20)	- "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1: 14-20)
22	Mon Exodus 15: 6	Your right, Lord, majestic in power Mary is the one who sings: "Great things the Almighty has done for me" (Luke 1:49). In her, God places his plan for humanity: in her, he reveals his mercy to men, destroys the false designs of the proud, overthrows the powerful of the thrones and elevates the humble, reinstates justice, distributes richness.
23	Tue Mk 3.31-35	To do the will of God. Jesus opens to each one the possibility of being part of his family, in which the bonds are established when the will of God, which is Love, is done. It is something that goes beyond the natural family, age, church to which we belong, political convictions, nationality etc.: "To be family" is more than an idea or feeling it is a concrete of true donation. We are brothers, sisters and mothers of Jesus when, in Love, we are brothers, sisters and mothers of those who live with us. <i>Let's be family</i>
24	Wed Mk 4.1-20	To bear many fruits. What kind of earth is our heart? A hardened and trampled heart, which hides the stones of the pains of the past, suffocated and distressed? On this ground, the Word cannot bear fruit. The plow that cleans and prepares the land of the heart is forgiveness. With him we can always take away from us everything that stops us from loving. In this planting, the negative of the past becomes fertilizer for a new life. God has given us a good and fertile heart. It pays to make it productive. <i>Let's be like good soil.</i>
25	Thu Mk 16.15-18 (Conversion of St. Paul)	Announce the Good News to the all creatures. The best way to advertise is with life itself. Today, we remember the conversion of Paul. He knew the scriptures, considered himself faithful to his religion ... and did evil. He suffered, learned to love, and changed his life. We can announce in words when this announcement is the result of our change. To speak beautiful with ugly attitudes is to tarnish one's dignity. How about surprising everyone today with positive attitudes? It's worth to be someone better. <i>Let's announce with life</i>
26	Fri 2Tm1. 1-18 St. Timothy and St. Tite apostle	Revive the love of God. "God did not give us a spirit of cowardness." Paul remembers the faith that had the grandmother and the mother of Timothy. How many mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, siblings, spouses, friends, struggled with all their faith for whom they loved? They were not cowards. There is someone who, with courage, gave his life for us. In him, we can renew our courage, strength, love and sobriety. We can start over. <i>Let's start over with courage.</i>
27	Sat Mk 4.35-41	To believe. "If we look only with human eyes at the sufferings ... or we will end in a dead end analysis ... or we will try to remove that annoying hindrance, fleeing in other directions." But if we believe that God is behind the existence with His love, and if strengthened by this faith, to perceive in the small and great sufferings of our daily lives, our and others, a surplus of love of Christ crucified and abandoned, a participation in the pain that has redeemed the world, it will be possible to understand the meaning and perspective even until at the most absurd situations." (Chiara Lubich, Ideal and Light, page 243).
28	Sun Mk 1.21-28	"He taught as one who has authority." (Mark 1: 21-28)
29	Mon Exodos 15.6	Your right, Lord, majestic in power In the Gospel is the highest and most sweeping revolution. Perhaps it is in God's plans that, even in these times, immersed in solving social problems, may Our Lady give us a hand, all of us Christians, to build, consolidate, build and show the world a new society in which the Magnificat ecoes strong.
30	Tue Mk 5.21-43 (Death of M. Gandhi, Índia, 1948)	Have faith. In the gospel, not all the attempts and strengths of the woman, the doctors, the father, the crowd and the girl were enough. But in that sick woman and in that afflicted father there was something impressive: faith. It takes courage to continue believing when everything seems to have failed or when everyone around us discourages us. All painful and difficult situations are opportunities for an encounter with Him, which always tells us to "get up". <i>Let's start over. Let's get up with confidence.</i>
31	Wed Mk 6.1-6 (St. John Bosco)	Welcome Jesus. Sometimes we evaluate people according to our criteria and ideas. Even if we have some reason, what we know or think about the other is always limited. We do not have the absolute truth about people. Not God, either. The miracle is the fruit of trust in Him and not in ourselves, in our ideas and abilities. To see and welcome Jesus, both in the brother and in the miracles, we must believe in the good that He does and in His presence in us and in others. Let's see the positive in people.

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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