



Daily Word of Life

March 2018

01	Thu Jr 17.5-10	Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord. The Word of God speaks against the stupidity of placing the security of one's life in human capabilities. As much as we have good studies, money, health, and people who love us, the difficult times come when only the relationship with "One" infinitely greater than us can sustain us. When He leads the many situations and decisions of our lives, we grow in the confidence we need to endure, embrace and overcome challenges. Hope always leads to belief. <i>Let's believe and start over.</i>
02	Fri Mt 21,33-43,45-46	Deliver the fruits at the right time. We are immensely loved by God. We have been able to reciprocate some of this love with our experiences of the Word of God. Those who fail to do good and those who refuse to share their experiences steal fruits that belong to God. Let us give Him, in response to His love, the precious fruits which come from the practice of the good. <i>Let's do good.</i>
03	Sat Lk 15: 1-3.11-32	Conversion. "How many times do we say, 'This is a sinner, did this and that,' and do we judge others? But what about ourselves? We are all sinners, but [...] we have the possibility of receiving this forgiveness which is the mercy of God. [...] we should not be afraid to recognize ourselves and confess ourselves sinners ... we must not fear our miseries: and each one has his own. But the inexhaustible power of love of the Crucified knows no obstacles, and this mercy cancels out all our miseries. " (Pope Francisco, 04/04/2016)
04	Sun Jn 2:13-25	Third Sunday of Lent - "Stop making my Father's house a market!"
05	Mon	Word of Life of the Month - "Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths" (Psalm 25: 4) From morning till night, all relationship with others should be lived with this love. At home, at university, at work, on sport courts, on vacations, in church, on the streets, we must reap the various occasions to love others as ourselves, recognizing Jesus in them, not forgetting anyone; even more, being the first to love everyone. ... To enter as deeply as possible into the heart of the other; really understand their problems, their demands, their failures and also their joys, in order to share everything with them. (...) In a way, become the other. Like Jesus who, being God, out of love became man like us. So the neighbor feels understood and relieved, because he finds someone who carries with him his weights, his afflictions, and shares with him his little happiness. "Living the other", "living others": this is a great ideal, this is superlative (...).
06	Tue Mt 18, 21-35	Forgive from the heart. Forgiveness does not happen like magic. It is sometimes a demanding decision that requires firmness and perseverance. In certain situations, to forgive, we must take the damage that the other has caused us. This is only possible when we go beyond feelings. It is difficult, but it allows us to be free. Whoever forgives frees himself from the evil he has suffered and opens himself to love everyone. <i>Let's forgive.</i>
07	Wed Mt 5, 17-19 St Perpetua and Felicidade	Practice and teach. Jesus is a teacher who teaches you to love with practical lessons. The greatest "lesson" was on the cross where, loving to the end, he gave away everything. He alone has authority to teach in the name of this master who does the "school" of the cross. There, He teaches to forgive, to give, to be a family, to give oneself, to live the present moment, to empty oneself and, consequently, to be an accomplished person. They are practical lessons that go beyond theories and explanations and form authentic builders of the "Kingdom of God." <i>Let's teach with our lives.</i>
08	Thu Jr 7:23-28 International Womans Day	Hear the voice of God. God often speaks to us through people and events. He also speaks to us in the silence and intimacy of the heart. Can we be sure we hear His voice? It is not about certainty, but about faithfulness to His Word. Whoever is faithful to the practice of goodness, in the love of God and his brothers, realizes how this voice, subtle and true, guides us to love in every decision and encourages us in every challenge. It is the voice that always leads to good. <i>Let's be faithful to the voice of the Good.</i>
09	Fri Mk 12:28-34	Love God and the neighbor. Love for us is more than a feeling. It is the essence and foundation of our existence. We put love into practice as we do good. It is an authentic relationship that unites us to God and our brother; involved in a mystery infinitely greater than ourselves, we realize that we are immensely loved and therefore capable of loving. <i>Let's love always.</i>
10	Sat Lk 18:9-14	Recognize your own sins ... "The gestures of penance and the few words of the publican testify to their conscience regarding their poor condition ... If the Pharisee did not ask for anything because they already had everything, the publican can only beg for the mercy of God ... presenting himself with empty hands, with naked heart and recognizing himself sinful. The publican shows us all the necessary conditions to receive the forgiveness of the Lord. In the end, justly, so despised, he becomes an icon of the true believer. " (Pope Francisco, June 1, 2016)
11	Sun	IV Sunday of Lent - "He who acts according to the truth draws near to the light" (Jn 3: 14-21)
12	Mon	Word of Life of the Month - "Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths" (Psalm 25: 4) From morning till night, all relationship with others should be lived with this love. At home, at university, at work, on sport courts, on vacations, in church, on the streets, we must reap the various occasions to love others as ourselves, recognizing Jesus in them, not forgetting anyone; even more, being the first to love everyone. ... To enter as deeply as possible into the heart of the other; really understand their problems, their demands, their failures and also their joys, in order to share everything with them. (...) In a way, become the other. Like Jesus who, being God, out of love became man like us. So the neighbor feels understood and relieved, because he finds someone who carries with him his weights, his afflictions, and shares with him his little happiness. "Living the other", "living others": this is a great ideal, this is superlative (...).
13	Tue Jn 5: 17-30	Do not sin again, so that doesn't happen a worse thing to you. This is not a threat from Jesus, but a logical thought. Throwing away the pain of the wounds of the past is experiencing healing and freedom. Taking up this pain is hurting yourself twice. Love makes us new people who know how to start over, forgive, help, give ... who are happy. Take back what makes us bad, for what? <i>Let's progress in the good.</i>
14	Wed Jn 5: 17-30	Doing the will of the Father. In facing the demands of the Word of God, many say, "But all do it differently," "no one thinks like this," "today is different"; what harms the other, our soul, health, dignity or nature remains "evil." Kindness, faithfulness and all that makes God's love grow in us and in others continue to be "good." What are we going to choose? Do as "everyone" or like those who, believing in love, seek to do good, living in faithfulness? <i>Let's choose the Good.</i>
15	Thu	Seek the glory that comes from God. Those who do good by wanting to be seen destroy their own joy. Whoever does for the

	Jn 5: 31-47	sake of the Word of God experiences joy, even if recognition does not come. Whoever does in gratuity is sustained by the love that comes from God, not from people. It is always He who carries out the good through us. We are only precious instruments of His love. <i>Let's do it for love.</i>
16	Fri Jn 7: 1-2.10:25-30 St. Luiza of Marillac	Isn't this the one who they seek to kill? The Jews, especially the ruling class, want to exterminate Jesus. But Jesus does not fail to fulfill his mission. The Christian, enlightened by faith, can recognize Christ as the messenger of the Father, as our God, and as the one who can transform our lives and save us. Those who love walk in the way taught by Jesus. Jesus does not fail to announce the truth of the Father. We, too, cannot fail to announce that God loves us immensely. <i>Let's go against the current, like Jesus.</i>
17	Sat Jn 7:40-53	Practice charity. 'He that doesn't love doesn't know God: for God is love.' Examine yourself to each one of the faithful and try to discern with sincerity the most intimate feelings of your heart ... If God is love, charity should have no borders, because the greatness of God has no limits. ... all times are good for charity, but these days of Lent to this exhort us in a special way ... No devotion of the faithful is more pleasing to God than the dedication for their poor ... "(Saint Leo Magnus, Pope, 'The Excellency of Charity')
18	Sun	V Sunday of Lent - "If the grain of wheat falls on the earth and dies gives much fruit". (Jn 12: 20-33)
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20	Tue Nb 21Ç 4-9	Pray to the Lord that he will turn away serpents. When dissatisfaction, hurt, judgment, and other negative things take over our way of thinking and acting, we poison life. The snakes of personal misery, which always bite everyone, kill the joy of living. Those who want to heal themselves need to have the courage to look at their own evils by lifting them up on the cross of Jesus. Love, which gave its life for us, is able to turn the poison of death into a sign of salvation. In God, all evil can be changed into good. <i>Let's turn the negative into positive.</i>
21	Wed Jn 8: 31-42	The truth will set you free. It is terrible to be a slave, whether of things, people, vices, feelings, ideas, lies, or the negative reactions that hide the pains of the past. Free people build positive family relationships in the environment where they live, take on the present moment doing good things and, by the grace of God, they become fulfilled and happy. He lives in slavery who closes himself in pain and does not want to love. The truth of Love frees us from the bondage of our evils. <i>Let's be free by loving.</i>
22	Thu Gn 17: 3-9	Keep my alliance. When we let God be "God in our life," He accomplishes immense things. When we live with Him, even though we remember well where we left off, we cannot imagine how far He can take us. Thousands of young people who restored life at the Farm of Hope can witness this. Faithfulness to love accomplishes great things. <i>Let's be faithful.</i>
23	Fri Jn 10:31-42	Have good works. When we live the Word of God, we also attract criticism and persecution. Love for God and our neighbor often puts us at risk. There are people who, because of personal limits and convictions, distrust, judge and even stand against those who promote good. Love invites us to overcome misunderstandings by maintaining faithfulness. The best answer to persecution and provocation is to continue to love. United with God and with the brothers we have the strength to go forward. <i>Let's persevere in the good.</i>
24	Sat Jn 11: 45-57 Blessed Oscar Arnulfo Romero	Cover ourselves with Christ. Let us follow the Lord, who hurries to his passion; let us imitate those who came to meet him; instead of robes or lifeless branches, instead of shrubs that brighten our eyes for a short time, let us throw ourselves at the feet of Christ, clothed with His grace, ... clothed with Himself ... Let us be like robes stretched out at his feet. (St. André of Crete, Oratio 9)
25	Sun	Palm Sunday - "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 14: 1-15, 47)
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27	Tue Jn 13: 21-33.36-38	Will you give your life for me? We are incoherent. We promise love, friendship, eternal faithfulness and then we fail. We promise God our lives and then, in our daily choices, we refuse to acknowledge Him in the brothers or difficulties that arise. But when we really love, not even incoherence prevents us from going forward doing good. Anyone who hopes to come to perfection and then do something good may spend his life doing nothing. Courage. We can love today. <i>Let's give ourselves in the present moment.</i>
28	Wed Mt 26:14-25	Prepare the Passover. We can also prepare a beautiful feast of Easter, full of concrete experiences, confession of sins, songs, etc.; we can have the celebration of foot-washing, the Saturday night vigil, the Easter Sunday, the meals. Preparing your life and heart is vital. <i>Let's get ready.</i>
29	Thu Ex 12:1-8.11-14	Feet washing and the last Lord's Supper - "This day will be a feast to you." The blood of Christ on the cross is for us the blood of the lamb that marks our life and our soul. The Cross, because it is love, dispels anger, hatred and condemnation. He who showed us the joy of serving by washing the feet of the apostles offered himself also as a food of gratitude: the Eucharist. This evening begins the "Easter Triduum", which will have its highest point on the feast of the Lord's Passover. Tomorrow is a day of fasting, penance, and silence. The Saturday will be of preparation and waiting. <i>Let's get ready for the party.</i>

30	Fri Is 52:13 -53, 12	Friday of the Passion - "By his wounds, we have been healed". Day of fasting, silence and prayer. The Lord tells us, "This cross did not strike me; but he hath wounded death ... My body, being stretched out on the cross, hath not increased my grief; before it becomes a wider lap to welcome you. My blood is not a loss to me, but rather the price of your ransom. " (São Pedro Crisólogo, S. 108)
31	Sat	Live the Hope. When everything speaks of death, we believe in life. When everything becomes darkness, we want to be light. When condemnation is imposed, we proclaim forgiveness. Where solitude settled, we became Family. When the world decrees the end, we announce resurrection. <i>In Him we are Hope.</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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