



# Daily Word of Life

## May 2018

01	Tue Jn 14.27-31 (St. Joseph worker)	<b>Do not let your heart be disturbed or intimidated.</b> Living in peace does not mean the absence of difficulties or living in physical, emotional, financial security. While "timidity" in the Gospel has the sense of cowardice, peace is born of the "boldness" of one who is faithful to God in the sorrow embraced and overcame. Peace is full of joy and hope. We can always make the effort to be more cheerful, lively and confident and give it to others. He who is "Peace" becomes present when there is love between us. <i>Let's give peace.</i>
02	Wed Jn 15.1-8 (St. Atanásio)	<b>Stay in me.</b> We can be smart, capable, healthy and successful. That is great, but it does not sustain our soul. We have "One" who is the food, the vine, who nourishes us: in material and spiritual fellowship with the brothers; in the Word of God; in the Eucharist, practices of faith and prayer; in the care we have with ourselves and our neighbor; in the harmony of nature and environments; in the readings, music and movies that feed us with good; in messages, letters, e-mails that transmit God. This food cleanses us, fortifies us and allows us to bear many fruits. <i>Feed yourself with the good.</i>
03	Thu Jn 14. 6-14 (S. Felipe e Tiago, Apóstolos)	<b>If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.</b> It is a mistake to understand this Word as something magical. When we speak in someone's name, we assume in some way the place of that person. To ask for something "in the name of Jesus" must, somehow, "be another Jesus". And what is He like? He gives his life for his friends, forgives, shares bread, serves, embraces the cross and, above all, lives perfect unity with the Father. It is a relationship that gives us Love. Whoever asks "in Him" asks the heart of God. <i>Let's live in Love.</i>
04	Fri Jn 15. 12-17	<b>"Love each other as I have loved you".</b> Jesus gives us the measure of love: "as I have loved you." And He loved giving His life. In extreme moments it is possible to give physical life. Daily, however, we can give life in simple things. One of our young men gave his pair of sandals to one who was barefoot. Another gave him a new pair of shorts. Another paid for the trip of a poor mother, making her able to visit her son who was recovering with him. Simple gestures, but full of life. <i>Let's love Always.</i>
05	Sat Jn 15. 18-21	<b>"I have chosen you".</b> "Jesus does not say: Go, get yourselves ... Jesus says: Go, I am with you! This is our charm and strength: if we go out to take his Gospel with love, with true apostolic spirit, frankly, he walks with us, he precedes us! ... When we think that we have to go far, to an extreme periphery, we may be frightened by a little, but in reality, He is already there: Jesus awaits us in the heart of that brother, in his wounded flesh, in his oppressed life, in his soul without faith. ... He always precedes us." (Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy, Chapter 1: 'Being with Christ', page 03)
06	Sun	6th Sunday of Easter - <b>"Let my joy be in you and your joy be full."</b> (Jn 15: 9-17)
07	Mon Gt 5.22	<b>The fruit of the Spirit, however, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, loyalty, meekness, self-control.</b> St. Paul, in this sentence, describes the enormous distance that exists between a slave life of selfishness and a life fully animated and guided by love, which is proper to Jesus and which He communicated to us through his Spirit.
08	Tue At 16.22-34	<b>Your sorrow will turn to joy.</b> There come times when it is hard to understand the will of God. When that happens, living the Word becomes a great challenge. It often seems that God is no longer present. "Hope" for us is Jesus himself, who loves us immensely. From him we can always hope for the best. On each cross is Jesus. From him comes the joy of the resurrection. <i>Let's love in Joy.</i>
09	Wed Jn 16. 12-15	<b>The Spirit of truth will teach the whole truth.</b> None of us owns the truth. Our small or great truths, even if beautiful, are limited by our history, way of thinking, preferences, etc. "Love" is the purest "Truth" that exists because it is totally free from human limitations or interests. He who is wisdom manifests himself with his light to whom he is capable of love. The light of truth always teaches us to discern and choose what is beautiful and true. To love living in the truth.
10	Thu Jn 16. 16-20	<b>Your sorrow will turn to joy.</b> There come times when it is difficult to understand the will of God. When that happens, living the Word becomes a great challenge. It often seems that God is no longer present. "Hope" for us is Jesus himself, who loves us immensely. From him we can always hope for the best. On each cross is Jesus. From him comes the joy of the resurrection. <i>Let's love in Joy.</i>
11	Fri Jn 16. 20-23a	<b>No one</b> can take your joy away. Difficulties, aches and crises always come, but they are not the reason for our life. Some people and situations can cause us sufferings for some time. But many sufferings are we who create or allow. God is not suffering. He's Love. And love does not exist without forgiveness. Those who love forgive, donate, create a family atmosphere, live the present moment, donate to others and, finally, are fulfilled. Those who love rejoice. <i>Renew the joy by loving.</i>
12	Sat Jn 16. 23b-28	<b>The Father Himself loves you.</b> "Faith is born in the encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love: a love that precedes us and which we can rely on to build life solidly. Transformed by this love, we receive new eyes and experience that there is a great promise of fullness and opens the vision of the future." (Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy, Chapter 01, 'Light of Faith')
13	Sun Our Lady of Fatima	Ascension of the Lord - "Go into the world ... and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16: 15-20) Week of Prayer for Unity among Christians
14	Mon Gt 5. 22 (S. Matias, Apostle)	<b>The fruit of the Spirit, however, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, loyalty, meekness, self-control.</b> The Holy Spirit is the inner freedom before all the disordered tendencies that want to incite us to evil; consequently, we find great ease and joy in doing good. The Christian, animated by the Holy Spirit, lives the words of Jesus.
15	Tue Jn 17. 1-11	<b>I gave you the Word that you gave me.</b> The Word of God is not an idea, a thing or a feeling. It is a relationship that communicates eternity to humanity. God is "one." And it is in unity that Jesus, the Word made flesh, makes a donation. What can we communicate to others? A positive experience that we have done, something beautiful that we have in the soul, an event or a positive action done with others; whoever lives the Word always has something good to communicate. <i>Let's communicate the Spirit of Love.</i>
16	Wed Jn 17. 11b-19	<b>May they have my joy.</b> Even if the announcement of sadness, hatred and unlove is shouted on all sides, we have the courage to announce joy. It is a joy not born of euphoria, of material achievements and successes. It is born of the embrace of Jesus on the cross. He is our resurrection. We can take you all in unity with the brothers and in the concrete acts of love experienced during the day. Joy is a sign of fulfillment. And only those who are able to love are fulfilled. <i>Announce the Spirit</i>

		of Joy.
17	Thu Jn 17. 20-26 (St. PascoalBailão)	<b>May all be one ... so that the world may believe.</b> He said "all" and not "Catholics" or "evangelicals" or "young people". Unity, because it is love, does not exclude anyone. At the Farm of Hope we see a bit of this miracle. We are from different churches, various religions, diverse convictions, varied ages and from four different continents and we experience that love unites us in one family. In this great variety of people, we want to communicate to the world that God is unity. <i>Let's live in the Spirit of Unity</i>
18	Fri Jn 21. 15-19	<b>Do you love me. Jesus asked twice:</b> "Peter, do you love me"? The word Jesus used speaks of a supernatural love, "agape." Peter replied, "I love you"; Peter cannot respond to the love of Jesus. He descends to the level of Peter's love and asks the third time, "Do you love me?" And Peter responds, "You know I love you." We have trouble loving Jesus as He loves us. It is He who always descends to our level to give us the gift of relationship with Him. Peter remained faithful and later was able to give his life. <i>Let's live in the Spirit of faithfulness.</i>
19	Sat Jn 21. 20-25	<b>Your witness is true.</b> ... "The witness of the faith takes many forms, as it happens in a great mosaic that presents / displays a variety of colors and tonalities; all, however, are important, even those that do not stand out. In God's great design, every detail is important, including yours, my small and humble witness, even the hidden witness of those who live their faith, simply in their daily family, work, friendship ... Whoever hears us and sees must read in our actions what he hears from our mouths and gives glory to God. " (Pope Francis, Church of Mercy, Cap 1, 4, 'Carrying the Word of God')
20	Sun	Solemnity of Pentecost - <b>"Receive the Holy Spirit."</b> (Jn 20: 19-23)
21	Mon Gt 5. 22	<b>The fruit of the Spirit, however, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, loyalty, meekness, self-control.</b> This sentence presents us with a goal. Because of baptism, we are called by Jesus to live in this condition. We should already know the way to reach this goal, but we must always begin to retrace it, helping each other. This way consists in responding to the grace of the Holy Spirit, who encourages us to live the words of Jesus.
22	Tue Mk 9. 30-37 (St Rita of Cassia)	<b>Whoever wants to be the first be the last and the one who serves everyone.</b> It is normal for a person to want to win, to be the best, the first in something. In the Gospel we learn that we cannot be the first "above" others, but loving others. This is possible when we place our "I", our authoritarianism or even our personal image last and welcome God, the good, in each brother. Positions and leadership functions can give authority for some time, but the one who loves serving gains authority for all life. <i>Let's witness serving.</i>
23	Wed Mk 9. 38-40	<b>Whoever is not against us is in our favor.</b> Jesus looks more to the good that the person does than to the group to which the person belongs. If we spend time loving, there is no time or reason to fight on behalf of groups or denominations. A glass of water given to do good is worth more than having the label of a group. It is better to do good together than to stop loving separated. <i>Let's witness love in differences.</i>
24	Thu Mk 9. 41-50 (Our Lady Helper)	<b>Live in peace with one another.</b> In Jesus' time no one had to mutilate his own body to follow him because He spoke of cutting attitudes, behaviors. We can and must cut off reactions and acts that hurt, hurt, or hurt each other, as well as things that are doing harm to our lives. We can cut the gossip, the malice, the bad mood, the isolation, the laziness, the gross answers, things that harm health, etc. <i>Let's radiate love with positive attitudes.</i>
25	Fri Tg 5. 9-12	<b>Blessed are those who endure.</b> To be "blessed" is to be "happy." Many times we think that we will be happy when we have the perfect job, the perfect person, the perfect place, a perfect life that does not exist. Happiness is built on perseverance, on love, not on the perfection of things or people. God is perfect because He is love. Whoever wants to live in love for Him and his brothers is willing to forgive the painful imperfections of the past and establish authentic relationships today. <i>Let's persevere in Love.</i>
26	Sat Tg 5. 13-20	<b>You will receive forgiveness.</b> "Let us not close ourselves to the news that God wants to bring to our lives! It often happens that we feel tired, disillusioned, sad, feel the weight of our sins, we think we will not. Let us not shut ourselves up, let us not lose confidence, let us not give up forever: there is no situation that God cannot change; there is no sin that cannot be forgiven if we open ourselves to it. " (Pope Francis, Church of Mercy, Chapter 1, 'The Christian Message'.)
27	Sun	Holy Trinity - <b>"I will be with you always, till the end of the world."</b> (Mt 28: 16-20)
28	Mon Gt 5.22	<b>The fruit of the Spirit, however, is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, loyalty, meekness, self-control.</b> From this sentence, we are also called to contribute our lives so that unity among all Christians can be fulfilled. Let us try, then, to guide our efforts to develop in ourselves the fruits of the Spirit for this purpose.
29	Tue Mk 10. 28-31	<b>You will receive a hundred times more.</b> During life we lose places we love, things we like, friends, loved ones that leave, and even if something remains, we will lose in the end. We can offer things and relationships to God. "To leave" by God is more than a renunciation. It is donation. Giving your life by doing good to others is the smartest choice anyone can make. In God, "to lose" is to gain ... "and everything else will be given to you". Have you ever thought about it? To give life for love.
30	Wed Mk 10. 32-45 (Sta. Joana D'Arc)	<b>Serve.</b> Our authority is in charity, which puts us in the disposition to love the other. Authority that does not serve the other is authoritarianism. Jesus serves even the point of giving himself on the cross. By the logic of the Gospel, whoever does not serve the other loving does not have the authority to be ahead. The way of asking, correcting, availability and attention gives more authority than titles and diplomas. Love in the first place.
31	Thu Mk 14. 12-16. 22-26	Body and blood of the Lord - <b>"Take and have it, this is my Body."</b>

*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).  
Fr. Marcio Roberto Geira*