

Daily Word of Life

August of 2018

01	Wed Mt 13,44-46 St. Afonso M. de Ligório	The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure. For someone to invest everything into a project he needs to believe in what he is doing and have the courage to take risks. There is a richness, greater than all, that is only capable of conquering those who give life to the Good. Those who risk "losing themselves" in this adventure, experience what it is to "earn" their own lives. The goods of earth pass. He, the only Good, remains. <i>Let's invest in what remains.</i>
02	Thu Jr 18, 1-6	Become like a new vase. The wet clay in the craftsman's hands is flexible. Our Craftsman molds us with two "hands": Jesus in the midst and Jesus on the cross, the Abandoned. They are two expressions of a single love that renews and heals. We generate his presence through oneness with the brothers. He corrects imperfections and renews us. And in the "Abandoned" we renew our choice of God and our willingness, in pain, to embrace him always, soon and with joy. With Him life is reborn. <i>Let's renew life.</i>
03	Fri Mt 13, 54-58	Have faith. Faith is relationship with God. Without it our hope is empty and He cannot make miracles happen. Sometimes we think we already know enough about God and His Word. And so by not believing in the miracles He can do, we limit His love, because of our ideas and projects. When we trust in Him, life becomes the space of the manifestation of His love. <i>Let's believe in love.</i>
04	Sat Mt 14, 1-12 S. João Maria Vianney	Learn from the cross. "The cross is the wisest book you can read. Those who do not know this book are ignorant even though they know all the other books. True sages are only those who love you, consult you, deepen you ... the more you are in your school, the more you want to remain. Time goes on without boredom. You know everything you want to know, and you can never be satisfied with what you taste." (St. John Mary Vianney, Spring nell'anima, CittaNuova, p.9)
05	Sun	XVIII Sunday of Ordinary Time - "I am the Bread of Life" . (John 6: 24-35)
06	Mon Jr 31,3	I love you with love of eternity; therefore I keep so much tenderness for you! The forty-year journey in the desert was a time of trial and grace for the Hebrew people. God engraved His law in the heart of every human being and spoke to all peoples in different ways and times. All men can rejoice in the love God has for them.
07	Tue Mt 14, 22-36	Courage! It's me. Do not be afraid! The small or large "nights" that we pass can obscure or distort the image of Jesus in our lives. In pain, we can recognize him and meet him on the sea of fragility of our faith, even in the inconstancy of our confidence. It is always He who presents himself at these moments. How often shall we cry out to Him for help? As many as are necessary, until we recognize that in every pain, in every difficulty, in every night and darkness of the soul it is He who comes to meet us. <i>Let's recognize love in the midst of pain.</i>
08	Wed Mt 15, 21-28 São Domingos	Lord help me. The woman who begged for it received a hard answer. If Jesus always loves, why did he treat her like this? Certainly out of love. Sometimes God breaks our hardness with hard answers. There are such things as pride, arrogance and self-sufficiency that become a malign presence in our lives and in those who live with us. Today may be a good day for us to review how we treat others and expel negative things from the heart. And when we need help, let us have the courage to ask, either to God or to the brothers. <i>Love heals.</i>
09	Thu Mt 16, 13-23 Sta. Edith Stein-Teresa B. da Cruz	Think about the things of God. One of our volunteers had received the news of her father's death. Shortly afterwards she learned that someone had a problem and needed help. In pain, she was willing to help. This is only possible when we embrace the cross. To think of the things of God is to love. And love is a gift. In each close one, in every situation and in every pain, I can love. Peter, who wanted to avoid the cross, then embraced it. Before the daily crosses we can say our yes to Jesus, doing something concrete. <i>Let's make consistent choices.</i>
10	Fri Jn 12, 24-26 (S. Lourenço)	If the grain of wheat that falls on the earth does not die, it remains only a grain of wheat; but if it dies, then it bears much fruit. "There is no joy of Jesus that is not the fruit of an embraced sorrow. There is no resurrection without death. That grain of wheat is Him. What did He do to "bring forth much fruit"? Shared all our way. He took upon himself our sufferings. With us, He became darkness, melancholy, weariness ... He experienced treachery, loneliness, orphanhood ... In a word: He "became one" with us. Today we can live like him, "making us one" with each neighbor who passes by our side. Embracing the pain of a division, sharing suffering, solving a problem, with a concrete love that knows how to serve." (Chiara Lubich)
11	Sat Mt 17,14-20 St. Claire	Be faithful. "... Be faithful 'To him whom thou hast promised unto death ... Brief is our striving here, but the reward is eternal.... Bear gladly the evil evils, and be not exalted with the good things : for they stimulate the faith and those who drive it out. Fulfill faithfully what you promised to God and He will repay you ... lift your eyes to heaven, which invites us; and bear the cross and follow Christ who has gone before us ... He will be your help and the best of comforters." (Santa Clara, F. Franciscanas, Ed. M.S.A., Pag. 1371)
12	Sun	XIX Sunday of Ordinary Time - "Whoever eats this Bread will live forever" . (John 6: 41-51)
13	Tue Jr 31,3	I love you with love of eternity; Therefore I keep so much tenderness for you! Even with all the love of God for men, it is not easy to understand their plan for humanity. Therefore he sent his Son, Jesus, who revealed the face of God in fullness, manifesting it as love and condensing his law into one commandment: to love God and the neighbor.
14	Tue Mt 18, 1-5.10.12-14 S. Maximiliano Maria Kolbe	Become small as a child. The "small" child was the response of Jesus to those who asked who would be the "greater" in the Kingdom of Heaven. There is a child in our soul full of beauty, purity and goodness, but who can also carry sores. Childhood wounds can affect us today, and only heal through the forgiveness we give. Sometimes with a single pain we keep, we become unable to see the beauty of the presence of God around us. Love is as simple as children. <i>Let's go back to being a child, by loving.</i>
15	Wed Mt 18, 15-20	Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them. There is a love that we call "reciprocal." It is love between people who in God are willing to give their lives for each other. It is the basic criterion for gathering "in the name of Jesus." It is much more than meeting up because of a group, ideas, activities, or even to do charity. How can we do it? Loving for first, all, living the unity, forgiving those who live by our side ..., generating Jesus in our midst. <i>Let's live in unity.</i>
16	Thu Mt 18, 21-19,1	Forgive always. Forgiveness is not magic. It is the hard, constant and beautiful decision to be free, loving. Jesus' response could also be understood as: "Sometimes the suffering that one does to us is so damaging that we cannot forgive completely at one time." Forgiveness is an exercise that, when put into practice, every day, in small things, with those who live next to us, transforms us into record-breaking athletes in the art of loving. For the forgiveness does not need the physical presence of who hurt us. It is important to give away the suffering, to get rid of its negative effects and to want the good for the other. <i>Let's forgive.</i>
17	Fri Mt 19, 3-12	Whoever can understand, understand. Being married or consecrated is not the most important. The most important thing is to do the will of God. And love. It is a wisdom that does not allow us to live anyway. The "way of life" for us is the one that the Word proposes. Each one receives a unique call that allows him to say yes or no to life with God. Love manifests itself to those who put it

		into practice. Let's understand by living.
18	Sat Salmo 50, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19 St. Helena	Create in me a heart that is pure. "Who art thou, sweet light, that fills me and brightens the darkness of my heart? You guide me as your mother's hand and you set me free. You are the space that surrounds my being and encloses it in you ... You are closer to me than I am of myself, and more intimate than my intimate, and yet impossible to grasp and incomprehensible that blows each Name: Holy Spirit, Eternal Love." (Edith Stein, <i>As the Father has loved me</i> , CittaNuova, page 78)
19	Sun	Solemnity of the Assumption - " Blessed are you among women ". (Lk 1, 39-56)
20	Mon Jr 31,3	I love you with love of eternity; therefore I keep so much tenderness for you! The adhesion, the personal yes, is not an alienation; it is not resignation, not even passively accept a fatality, it has already been established, this is fate, it has to happen. No. It is to cooperate to bring forth the great design that God has for each person and for the whole humanity: to make of it a single family, united by love.
21	Tue Mt 19, 23-30 S. Pio X	Leave everything for Jesus. Those who are willing to love have many initiatives to do good using creativity. And the creativity that God has given us can take us very far. There are many communities in Brazil, Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia that await the answer of courageous people to embrace the adventure of following Jesus. Have you thought about joining a mission? <i>Let's be Creative and courageous.</i>
22	Wed Lc 1,26-38 Our Lady Queen	To God nothing is impossible. Also in your life this is true. God wants, just as he did with Mary, to proclaim and give birth to the life of his Son. Do not be afraid. The grace given by God to Mary comes to us today through the Word. May your life today be a miracle of God.
23	Thu Mt13,44-46 Sta. Rosa de Lima	Buy that pearl. Building eternity is the greatest investment we can make. In life we can achieve some wealth. But there is greater wealth that is given to one who is able to give up his whole life to do good. The Word invites those who have the courage to take risks. The goods of the earth pass fast. The life given to God remains. <i>Let's offer the best with joy.</i>
24	Fri Jo1, 45-51 S.Bartolomeu	You will see the open sky. Nathanael gave no importance to Jesus because he came from Nazareth. He did not recognize who was standing before him. The "fig tree" of our history, with its shadows, is always under the gaze of the love of God. In every situation we can find this look, also in the pains, shame, failures, fatigue and disappointments. Each person, event, work, small or great gestures can become the presence of Jesus. It does not matter the origin. It is always Him. Let's recognize and witness love.
25	Sat Mt 23, 1-12	Practice the gospel. "Lord, teach me to pray and to love you. Then I will forget my misery in you ... And only then will I be brother to the people, one that helps them to find the only one they really need, You, God of my brothers." (Karl Rahner, <i>As the Father has loved me</i> , I, page 21)
26	Sun	XXI Sunday of the Common Time - " To whom shall we go, Lord? You have words of eternal life ". (Jn 6, 60-69)
27	Mon Jr 31,3 St. Mônica	I love you with love of eternity; so much that I keep such tenderness for you! How to seek this divine life? Love, this is the way. And if we look at the Ten Commandments, we can see that by truly loving God and the neighbor, we will all live perfectly.
28	Tue 2Ts 2,1-3ª.14-17 S. Agostinho	Encourage the heart and confirm the good deeds. Let's not permit that our heart and our ability to love be shaken by things that others say or do or even by negative news that come to us. God is always Love, and whoever abides in Love abides in God. That which is true is confirmed in the fruits. Love between us gives us strength in difficult and painful situations. <i>Let's renew the mood.</i>
29	Wed Mc 6, 17-29 Martírio de João Batista	Be fair like John the Baptist. To be fair is to live in the measure of God's love. John is whole and gives himself in full. Herod is divided, is half, and therefore promises half of the kingdom. He is worthy of pity, while John becomes witness and example. It is very sad to be half-hearted, to love half-way, to work halfway or to make recovery in half ... Fair love is complete. <i>Let's do things completely.</i>
30	Thu Mt 24, 42-51	Be prepared. We prepare ourselves for eternity by doing good, loving, in the present moment. Often, waiting for the future, we are no longer living today. Do the pains come? We can embrace. Someone needs help? We can help. Is discouragement coming? start over. Can we take this proposal together? Let us be attentive to each new possibility. It's training for champions. <i>Let's live the present moment.</i>
31	Fri 1Cor 1,17-25 St.Raimundo Nonato	"We preach Christ crucified." "Father, Jesus, Mary, us. The Father allowed Jesus to feel for Him abandoned for us. Jesus accepted the abandonment of the Father and deprived himself of the Mother, for us. Mary shared the abandonment of Jesus and accepted the deprivation of the Son for us. So we were put in the first place. It is love that makes such madness." (Chiara Lubich)

Comments usually prepared for the daily meditations of the young people of Fazenda da Esperança.

The Word of Life of the Month can be found at www.focolare.org (portuguese).

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