



Daily Word of Life

March 2019

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6,36)

01	Fri Sirach 6, 5-17	Whoever found a friend, found a treasure. A friendship centered on unity is capable of doing good to countless people. True friendships allow people to grow in their ability to relate to others and to God. Be unite to do error, for sin, for evil, to criticize others, to persecute people, is not friendship, but only a partnership. Let us take care that our friendships are led by His presence among us. Build true friendships.
02	Sat Sirach 17, 1-13	And he gave commandment to each of them concerning his neighbor. We know well that the great commandment that the Lord Jesus has left us is to love: to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with our whole mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, that is, we are called to the love, to charity. And this is our most sublime vocation, our vocation par excellence; and to it is bound also the joy of Christian hope. Those who love have the joy of hope, of finding the great love that is the Lord. (Pope Francis, March 15, 2017)
03	Sun Luke 6, 39-45	VIII Sunday of Ordinary Time – “Take the beam first out of your own eye”
04	Mon St Casimir	“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6,36)
05	Tue Mark 10, 28-31	They will receive a hundred times more. We like "recognitions". We are happy when we value ourselves and are rewarded for the good we do. That's nice. But for those who live the Word, there is a recognition and a reward that surpasses the small human rewards. We can do everything without expecting anything in return, out of love. We can do everything by saying "for you, Jesus." If the love given on this earth can bring rewards already here, imagine what it will be like in eternity! Love for free.
06	Ash Wed Matthew 6, 1-6. 16-18	Your Father will reward you”. Day of fasting, prayer and abstinence. It is the beginning of Lent, a penitential time in preparation for Easter. It is important to do during this time some act of renunciation, community and individual, material or behavioral, that could have the result reversed to do good to others.
07	Thu Deut 30, 15-20 Ss Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs	Therefore choose life. Choose life. Addiction, sin, error are instruments of death, because they take away the meaning of life. Our mistakes can give us momentary pleasures and euphoria but are not capable of generating authentic joy. This time of preparation for Easter invites us to make choices that will fulfill us and fill us with joy. To choose life is first and foremost to choose goodness, forgiveness, honesty, help to others, coherent attitudes and, first of all, to love the one who is the true Life. Choose the good.
08	Fri Isa 58, 1-9a St John of God, religious	Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer. Religious practices and devotions make sense when the center is God and not the rituals. When we live our lives for God, our way of thinking, feeling and doing becomes signs of love for Him and for our brothers and sisters. Love is not an idea or a feeling. It is good practice. It invokes God sincerely who has a relationship of trust with Him.
09	Sat Luke 5, 27-32 St Frances of Rome, religious	I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners. "That 'why' we have so often heard among the faithful Catholics when they saw works of mercy. 'Why?' And of course Jesus is very clear: 'Go and learn'. And he commanded them to learn, ... 'Go and learn what is meant by mercy-what I want-not sacrifices, for I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.' If you want to be called by Jesus, recognize yourself as a sinner. " (Pope Francisco, September 21, 2017)
10	Sun Luke 4, 1-13	I Sunday of Lent: You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.
11	Mon	“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6,36)
12	Tue Matthew 6, 7-15	Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. It is not an "exchange of favors." God's forgiveness is a way that works only with two free sides. Forgiveness only comes to me as I give to others. God never gives grace to individualism. Forgiveness, because it liberates, does not admit chains that bind us. Someone who can not feel forgiven, maybe imprison in the soul a forgiveness that did not give to someone. Even though it is not easy in some situations, forgiveness is a condition for being free to love. To forgive.
13	Wed Luke 11, 29-32	This generation seeks a sign. The greatest sign we have is the proclamation of the Word that invites us to change our lives. The first step to our conversion is the recognition of our negative behavior with the effort to control our actions and personal change. Then comes the effort to establish a positive coexistence with each person through dialogue and concrete gestures. Conversion is to meet "God-Love." The one who loves becomes a sign of God and light for other people. Be a sign of love.
14	Thu Matthew 7, 7-12	So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. It is not a matter of imposing on others what we like, but simply of treating the other in the same way that we would like others to treat us if we were in the same situation. This practice eliminates unjust prejudices and attitudes with those who think differently or are of another religion, political line, etc. Moreover, it opens our eyes and our hearts to the needs of others. Love your neighbor as yourself.
15	Fri Matthew 5, 20-26	First reconcile with your brother. It is not good for the soul or the body to carry enmities, grudges, or hurts. Reconciliation is sacrifice because it costs and it is offer because it gives. Perhaps the other person can refuse to be reconciled, but our part is to do what is within our means, offering everything to God. Let us take the first step towards restoring unity. Reconcile.
16	Sat Matthew 5, 43-48	Love your enemies. The following passage is part of a letter left by Father Christian Marie, one of the monks murdered by terrorists in Algeria in 1996. Knowing he might die, he left a message to his murderer: "At this moment, I would like to be clear enough to beg for pardon of God and of all human beings, my companions, forgiving with all my heart who could have hurt me. Not that I wanted a death like this. [...] And you too, my friend at the last moment, who does not know what he does. Yes, to you, too, I offer this thanks and this 'goodbye', according to your planning. May we meet again, as happy thieves, in paradise, if God, our Father, will. Amen! "
17	Sun Luke 9, 28b-36 St Patrick, bishop	II Sunday of Lent: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.

18	Mon St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor	“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6,36)
19	Tue Matthew 1,16.18- 21.24 ^a St Joseph	Joseph was righteous. He who is righteous is able to seek the truth by acting in charity. Faced with what we regard as error, we should never rush or expose people. Decisions made without clarity can do great damage and harm people's lives. Who is fair is also patient and does not come out unmasking people. Joseph protected Mary, chosen by God, and Jesus who lived in her. God is in all, even in whom he has erred. Who is righteous is able to see God in the other. Being just loving.
20	Wed Matthew 20, 17-28	Whoever wants to become great, become your servant. Jesus takes the initiative to serve. Often, we expect each other's love to love later. Other times we confine ourselves to criticizing those who do not do good, who wants to dominate, who is incoherent, etc. The logic of love is different. Love takes initiative, serves, puts itself at the disposal of the other, promotes good and not itself. This is more rewarding than being boss. Let us be the first to live and share the experiences of the Word. Let us be the first to serve. There will be no shortage of occasions to love today. Become great in the ability to love.
21	Thu Jer 17, 5-10	Blessed is the man that hope in in the Lord. In this text the prophet speaks of the stupidity of people in entrusting their salvation or their happiness to a human person, in their own capacity or in their own strength. The relationship of true trust comes from trusting in God. Father, mother, wife, spouse, children or friends are important to our lives, but the essential only God can give. Let us do each thing believing that it is He who sustains our life. To believe.
22	Fri Matthew 21, 33- 43.45-46	Give fruits. How we are taking care of our life, which we receive from God? The good that has been entrusted to us through the Word is only effective if we surrender the fruits to God and to the brothers, children of the same God. Whoever does not share the fruits of the Word expels and kills the presence of Jesus. When we hear the Word and decide not to love, not to share, we manifest our selfishness. The grace we do not share, the love we do not give, we will lose it. To share.
23	Sat Luke 15, 1-3.11-32	I'm going back to my father. "The immense greatness of God's mercy to sinners, and the immense greatness of the tenderness of the love with which the repentant sinner welcomes, is well revealed by the parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son. If in the past we have also forsaken our good Father and Pastor by sin, let us not delay in returning to Him, resolved never to leave Him again, no matter what it costs, certain that He will treat us as if we never had Him offended ". (St. Alphonsus Liguori, Meditations, T.3)
24	Sun Luke 13, 1-9	III Sunday of Lent: “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish”
25	Mon The annunciation of the Lord	“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6,36)
26	Tue Matthew 18,21-35	How Often Should I Forgive? Forgiveness is not a game or a magic. It is a decision that can often require of us perseverance. In many situations, to forgive, we must take on the loss that the other has caused us. This is only possible when we go beyond feeling. It is difficult, but it allows us to be free. He who forgives increases his ability to love and becomes free. To forgive.
27	Wed Matthew 5, 17-19	Practice and teach. Jesus taught with his life and his death. Who lives and dies with Him, experiences the greatest miracle of love of the Gospel: the Resurrection! Life, death and resurrection of Jesus are "spaces" of eternity also for those who practice His Word. Who in a concrete way learns from the Master himself also becomes, in a way, master of love, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, family life, etc. To love with concrete actions.
28	Thu Jer 7, 23-28	You shall be my people. We are people of God when we listen to his voice, his Word, and put it into practice. Just as we follow the laws of a nation, when we recognize that we are of God we are disposed to follow an eternal, fundamental law written in the heart of every person. To reject the law of God's love is to reject one's own identity, one's own origin, and put oneself under the bars of evil. Born for good, for eternity, we belong to the people "who know how to love." Unite to do good.
29	Fri Hosea 14, 2-10	Return to the Lord your God. "Return" is not always easy. Sometimes it can bring us the feeling of defeat. It is only defeated who gives up loving. Let us not be ashamed to return to the good, for the joy of rediscovering the meaning of life. Remember: "returning" to error is relapsed, but "returning" to good is resumption; Those who return to God are always more than conquerors. Have the courage to start over.
30	Sat Luke 18, 9-14	Whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Humble is the man, the woman, who is able to endure the humiliations as endured by Jesus, the humble, the great humiliated. (...) Often, when we are humiliated, when we feel humiliated by someone, we immediately have the will to respond, to defend ourselves. It is necessary to look at Jesus: He remained quiet in the moment of the greatest humiliation. There is no humility without the acceptance of humiliation. Humility is not just being quiet, quiet. No. Humility is to accept humiliations when they arrive, as Jesus did. " (Pope Francisco, December 5, 2017)
31	Sun Luke 15, 1-3.11-32	IV Sunday of Lent: This my son was dead, and now is alive.

*These comments are usually prepared for the daily meditations of the young people of Fazenda da Esperança.
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* The Word of Life of the Month can be found at www.focolare.org (English).*