

Saint Francis Xavier Parish

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 14, 2018



*Let nothing disturb thee, Nothing affright thee;
All things are passing; God never changeth
Patient endurance attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth in nothing is wanting; Alone God sufficeth*

Saint Theresa Avila (Written in her Breviary)

Dear Parish Family,

In our first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, we hear the heart of Solomon, *"I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her"* (Wis 7:7-8). Saint Louis de Montfort called what Solomon sought "Eternal Wisdom" which is none other than Our Lord Jesus Christ. To possess him is to possess Eternal Life. Further, the Church combines this reading today with the gospel story of the Rich Young Man, seeking *"to inherit eternal life"* (Mk 10:17, ff.) This is someone who told Jesus very plainly that he kept all the commandments. Jesus did not refute this. However, he told the young man, *"You are lacking in one thing."* I don't think his belongings were the problem, though they perhaps prevented him from having this "one thing." Recall that we spoke a bit about growing beyond "mediocrity" to a deep conversion. We used many ideas of Father Thomas Dubay. By a deep conversion, he was speaking about going way beyond the initial conversion we need to remain in the *state of grace*, i.e. conversion from *Mortal Sin*. He encouraged and instructed all of us, like the saints do, to make every effort we can to be well-along the way in the 2nd degree of conversion and then the 3rd. He was speaking about moving from even *Venial Sin* and to acquiring *Heroic Virtue*. These are both steps along the way of the ordinary spiritual life, on the way to the *Transforming Union*.

I suppose we would like to think that this is for others, not ourselves. Since we will celebrate the feast of Saint Teresa of Avila this Monday, October 15th, let's refer to her words on the subject. We will see that she is not apt to think like us. In the *Book of Her Life*, Ch 27, 12, she says about all of us,

Reflect—for this is the truth—that to those who give up everything for Him God gives Himself. He is not a respecter of persons. He loves us all: no one, however wicked, can be excluded from His love since He has dealt in such a way with me and brought me to so high a state. Reflect that what I am saying is barely a fraction of what there is to say. I have only said what is necessary to explain the kind of vision and favor which God bestows on the soul; but I cannot describe the soul's feelings when the Lord grants it an understanding of His secrets and wonders -- a joy so far above all joys attainable on earth that it fills us with a just contempt for the joys of life, all of which are but dung. It is loathsome to have to make any such comparison, even if we might enjoy them for ever. And what are these joys that the Lord gives? Only a single drop of the great and abundant river which He has prepared for us.

In speaking about the *universal call to holiness*, Saint Bernard answers those who would protest that because of their past or their present sinfulness they could not hope to be included in this category. He says (which I paraphrase here), "I don't care how deep of a slime of sin you've been in, I'm talking to you."

In her *Interior Castle*, Mansion 3, Ch 1, Saint Teresa says, *[Returning] to what I had begun to explain concerning the souls that have entered the third Mansions. In enabling these souls to overcome their initial difficulties, the Lord has granted them no small favor, but a very great one. I believe that, through His goodness, there are many such souls in the world: they are most desirous not to offend His Majesty; they avoid committing even venial sins; they love doing penance; they spend hours in recollection; they use their time well; they practice works of charity toward their neighbors; and they are very careful in their speech and*

dress and in the government of their household if they have one. This is certainly a desirable state and there seems no reason why they should be denied entrance to the very last of the Mansions; nor will the Lord deny them this if they desire it, for their disposition is such that He will grant them any favor.

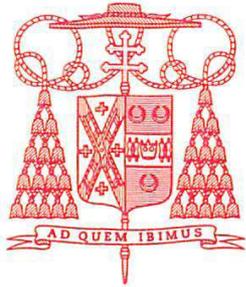
The door that allows any of us entry to "the Mansions," which represent our own personal spiritual growth, is prayer. Saint Teresa is called the "Doctor of Prayer." She lived, nonetheless, as a Woman of Prayer. She advises us to do the same. She speaks to us from her own experience. How did she pray? We have a few good insights: 1) She favored focusing on the "indwelling presence of the Trinity," present in all who are in the *state of grace*. This can, and many times should, be done in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or not. 2) She tells us, when you begin to pray, "Look at Him!" Look at Him in His Incarnate Nature. She always carried a picture of Jesus in order to be able to do this. She took the words of the Gospel literally, "No one goes to the Father except through Him." 3) She recalled the Lord in one of the Mysteries of His Life. Her favorite was the Passion. She also advises, as she herself did, "Bring a book!" Even if you are in advanced prayer, you may need it. There are many times she had to resort back to meditation. 4) She never got upset about distractions. If they are not "willed," they are not really impeding prayer (at least not very much). 5) She was optimistic, even in periods of "blankness" in prayer, and even when this persisted for a week or two. She would laugh at herself and "what she could do by herself!" It was a clear reminder of the words of Jesus, "Without me you can do nothing." 6) She was completely submissive to the Divine Initiations she experienced in prayer. Her method was: *When God gives, you do not act. When God does not give, you return to your own activity* (e.g. Meditation). 7) She insisted on fidelity to the "nitty-gritty" of everyday life, according to our *state in life*. Our prayer life is not divorced and separate from the rest of our life.

She grew because of this and because: 1) She was a determined woman. She had a firm will. She believed in giving God everything! 2) She loved Truth, sound Theology and the Church. She bought the "whole package" & she lived it. She was truly an authentic person! 3) She had a burning love for God and other people. She hated *mediocrity* and *cutting corners*. There was no room for this in her life. This was the type of individual she was. 4) She gave prayer the place of primacy in her life. She took the following passages from the Gospels very seriously and in this imitated Jesus, Whom she loved. First, *"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed."* (Mk 1:35) (*Earlier translations say that Jesus "was absorbed in prayer."*); and, *"He [Jesus] would withdraw to deserted places to pray."* (Lk 5:16), like Jesus also instructed us, *"go to your inner room!"* (Mt 6:6) and pray. That's desert enough!

All of this can seem very simple. Actually, it is. It can also be very profound. It becomes so when we begin to put it into practice. Then we begin to live what a saint like this lived. Simple? Yes, but not so simple! Profound? If we live it!

God's Peace 


SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER & OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCHES



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

September 5, 2018
Feast of Saint Theresa of Calcutta

Dear friends in the Lord:

At Baptism, each of us is marked by the Lord and entrusted with a special responsibility to tell the world of His message and invitation. We are, indeed, called to serve as His missionaries.

World Mission Sunday affords all baptized Catholics an opportunity to celebrate their missionary vocation through prayer and sacrifice for the missionary work of the Church.

This year's *World Mission Sunday*, October 20th, marks the 110th Anniversary of our "mission independence." Through 1908, the Church in the United States was the beneficiary of the generosity of the Catholic faithful of Europe through the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. In fact, two-thirds of the very first collection of the Propagation of the Faith, in 1822, was sent to the Church in America, making it possible to build churches and schools, educate clergy and religious, provide for the good works of religious communities, and support evangelization here at home. By a 1908 papal decree, the designation "mission territory" was removed from the United States. More than one hundred years later, as we recall our own mission history, we are called upon to assist both spiritually and financially the more than 1,150 "young churches" in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and Latin America, all of which have the same needs that the United States once had.

With this in mind, please be as generous as your means will allow this *World Mission Sunday* so that the Propagation of the Faith can continue to spread the "Good News" to the growing faith communities of our day. So, too, following the call of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, let us pray that our celebration of *World Mission Sunday* will generate within us a renewed awareness of the need to proclaim the Gospel to all corners of the world.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tim. Card. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized hand.

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

TMD:jm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 13th

4:30pm -Charlotte Mills (Health & Blessings)
 Requested by Family
 -Marie Porter
 Requested by Karl & Cathy Porter

Sunday, October 14th

8:30am -Fr. William Scully
 Requested by The Rosary Society
 11:00am -Dr. Robert Lucas
 Requested by Patty Moser & Judy Stringer
 -Marie F. Porter
 Requested by Helen Barr-Reith & The Reith Family

Tuesday, October 16th

8:30am -George J. Johnson & Robert Johnson
 Requested by Eleanor L. Johnson

Wednesday, October 17th

8:30am -Dr. Robert Lucas
 Requested Patty Moser & Judy Stringer

Thursday, October 18th

8:30am -Our Parish Family

Friday, October 19th

8:30am -Joseph Meyer
 Requested by Peggy & Patrick Harrison

Saturday, October 20th

4:30pm -Ernest & Louise Bingel (50th Anniversary)
 Requested by The Family
 -Pete Moran
 Requested by Regina Moran

Sunday, October 21st

8:30am -Our Parish Family
 11:00am -Fr. William Scully
 Requested by The Catholic Daughters-Court #1542

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 7:7-11
 Hebrews 4:12-13
 Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27



St. Francis Xavier's 2 Franks' Café Volunteers



Cordially Invite You to Our FREE Monthly Luncheon
 All welcome!

When: Saturday, October 20, 2018
 Time: Noon to 1:30 pm
 Where: St. Francis Parish Hall
 Cost: Food and Fellowship FREE



Also, JOIN US FOR OUR 1st SPECIAL MINI "TRICKY TRAY" FUNDRAISER
 TO BENEFIT THE
 ST. FRANCIS FAMILY OUTREACH PROGRAM



Doors Open at NOON
 CALLING FOR PRIZES STARTS at 1:00 pm!

Collection

October 7th, 2018

1st Collection

Our Lady of the Lake	\$283.00
St. Francis Xavier	\$1,132.00

2nd Collection

Our Lady of the Lake.....	\$194.00
St. Francis Xavier.....	\$360.00

Other

Our Lady of the Lake.....	\$20.00
St. Francis Xavier.....	\$143.00

Total
\$2,132.00
Thank you!

Please Pray for our Parish Family

For the Sick: Peggy Bayly Lohmann, Dennis Falk, Barbara Walter, Gloria Saures, Ed Brennan, Amy Ernano, Clayton Snow, Barnabas O'Driscoll, Sean Sweeney, Jose Mabama, Ron Burke, Charlotte Mills, Carol Mash, Mary Cauvaris, Barbara Smith, Janine Perry, Hilde Bielfeld, Rosemary Barile, Helene Indelicato, Christine Mary Faggione, Tracy Larssen, Septemberr Totten, Madeline Sheans, Peggy Lee Romano, Mary Weiden, Mary Tresh, Ida Alvarez, Mildred Meyer, and all those struggling with any kind of illness and suffering.

For the Deceased: Theresa Delaney, Helen Bunis, Maria Meyer, Pat Noble, Joseph Meyer, Gloria Ackermann, Eileen Dempsey, Martin Ferrick, Jacoba "Cobi" Campfield, George Johnson, Josephine Kelly, Joanne Barnes Brennan, Dr. Robert Lucas, Daniel Kelly, Fr. William Scully, Jean Salmeri, Barbara Smith, Mary Ann Janowsky, Helen Guttzeit, and all those who have gone before us.

For those Serving in the Military: SGT Vaughn Schlott USMC (TX)