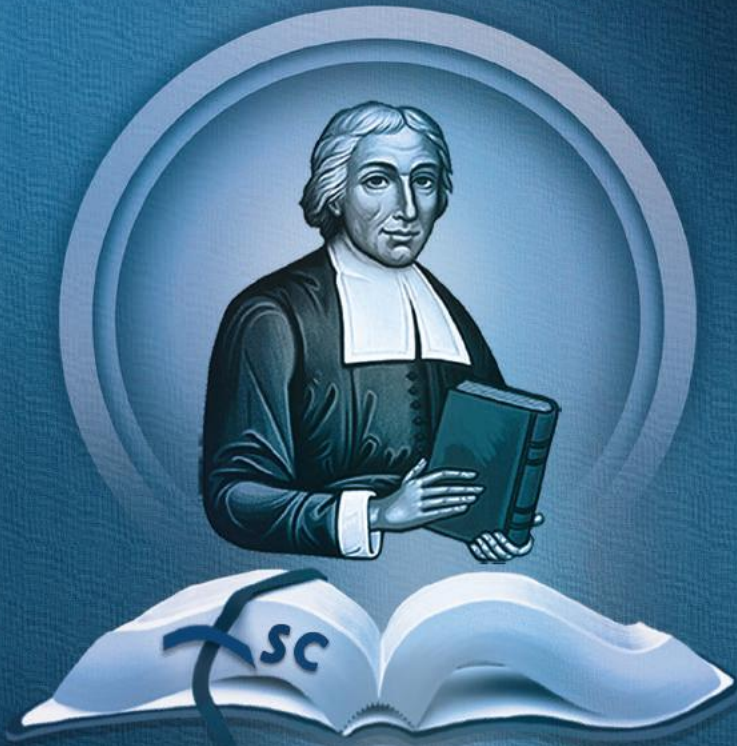




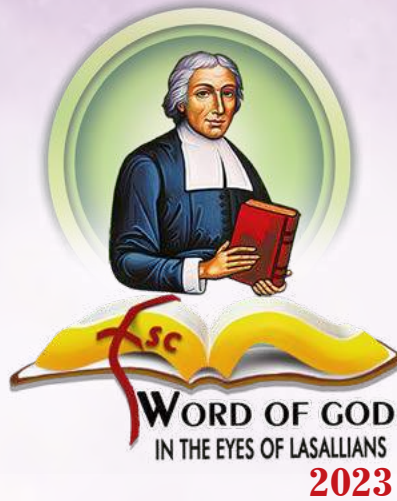
Brothers of
the Christian
Schools



WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**



SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (1651-1719)

Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools,
Patron Saint of Christian teachers.

WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

is a First Pastoral Initiatives

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

First Reading: Sirach 27:30–28, 7

Anger and wrath, these also are abominations, yet a sinner holds on to them. The vengeful will face the Lord's vengeance, for he keeps a strict account of their sins. Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does anyone harbor anger against another, and expect healing from the Lord? If one has no mercy toward another like himself, can he then seek pardon for his own sins? If a mere mortal harbors wrath, who will make an atoning sacrifice for his sins? Remember the end of your life, and set enmity aside; remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbor; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Psalms 102:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

℟ *The Lord is compassion and love, Slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. ℟

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
Who heals every one of your ills,
Who redeems your life from the
grave, Who crowns you with love
and compassion. ℟

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. ℟

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. ℟

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another; just as I have loved you. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord

Sunday

ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.



® “My heavenly Father will treat you in exactly the same way unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.” — Matthew 18:35. Many Christians don't forgive others because they have been deceived into thinking they have already forgiven. This deception about forgiveness results in our being handed over to the torturers (Mt 18:34) and not being forgiven ourselves (Mt 6:12). Therefore, we are doomed if we are deceived about having forgiven. One of the best indicators of false forgiveness is anger. Before and after the writer of Sirach commands us to forgive (Sir 28:2), he teaches us that “wrath and anger are hateful things” (Sir 27:30) and that anger prevents us from being healed (Sir 28:3, 5). We may not even feel angry with the persons who have hurt us, yet anger in any area may be an indication of unforgiveness toward someone.

18



SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

24th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



Joseph of Cupertino was a Franciscan friar who is honoured as a Christian mystic and saint. His tendency to levitate during prayer led him to be humble, patient, and obedient, even though at times he was greatly tempted and felt forsaken by God. He was brought before the Inquisition, and sent from one Capuchin or Franciscan house to another. He is the patron saint of Air Travelers, Astronauts and Pilots.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalm 28:2, 7, 8-9

Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my appeal.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

R When we pray, do we give the Lord orders, or we sit at His feet, listening to His words. "I too am a man who knows the meaning of an order." — Luke 7:8. Jesus is Lord! A lord gives orders. The way to please a lord is to ask for an order. For example, the centurion sent the message to Lord Jesus: "Just give the order and my servant will be cured". This man understood what it meant to be a lord and have authority over others. He understood Jesus. We also should seek orders from Jesus, our Lord, the Lord of lords. We should read the Bible looking for an order to obey immediately. When we pray, we must not give the Lord orders but sit at His feet, listening to His words. We should constantly say: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening". Also, the Lord wants us even to delight in obeying our parents, husbands, pastors, employers, and leaders. In this way, we show our delight in His lordship. We love Jesus' orders even more than His promises. We delight in the law of the Lord (Ps 1:2). Jesus' lordship is not merely a title but our way of life. It is our joy to submit to and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Jesus is Lord!

First Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way—for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalm 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6

R *I will walk with blameless heart.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

R The first characteristic listed as a requirement for deacons is "seriousness." This characteristic is also the first requirement listed for their wives (1 Tm 3:11). This same trait is expected of bishops, that is, overseers of communities. The word is here translated "dignity" and applied to the overseers' parenting (1 Tm 3:4. Seriousness or dignity is expected of the older men in the Christian community (Ti 2:2). It is also a characteristic of good teaching (Ti 2:7-8). In the King James translation, the word for "seriousness" and "dignity" is translated "gravity." This could indicate that, just as gravity is an unstoppable force, seriousness in living the Christian life produces solid, lasting fruit which cannot be overcome. In summary, seriousness is necessary for deacons, their wives, leaders of Christian community, elderly Christian men, and good teaching. Therefore, seriousness is obviously very important in the Christian life, for all Christians as well.



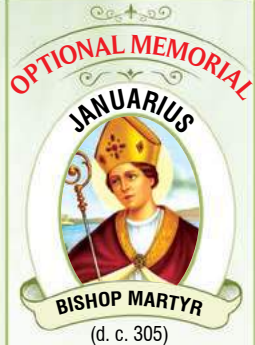
19

SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



St. Januarius was the bishop of Benevento. During the Emperor Diocletian's persecution, he was arrested while visiting imprisoned deacons. He and his companions were thrown to the bears in the amphitheatre of Pozzuoli, but the animals failed to attack them. They were then beheaded. He is the patron saint of Naples, where the faithful gather three times a year to witness the liquefaction of his blood kept in a sealed glass ampoule.

20

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

MEMORIAL

ANDREW KIM, & CO



KOREAN MARTYRS

(1839 - 1867)

Andrew Kim and Paul Chong were the first Korean martyrs. St. Andrew was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at Seoul. Among the other martyrs were lay people, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly who suffered greatly for the Faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church of Korea.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 3:14-16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

Psalms 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6

Great are the works of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life..

Gospel: Luke 7: 31-35

“To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

Ⓜ The first reading is an admonition from St. Timothy “I am writing you about these matters so that if I should be delayed you will know what kind of conduct befits a member of God’s household, the Church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of truth.” —1 Timothy 3:14-15. Human beings cannot help but be under authority. If we are not under the authority of God, we may be under the authority of Satan — even if we think we are “doing our own thing” (as if we had an “own thing”). If we are not under the authority of God’s Church, “the pillar and bulwark of truth”, we are under some other authority. This alternate authority might consist of certain powerful multimillionaires, celebrities, politicians, or social scientists — proponents of «freedoms» thinly disguised as totalitarian dictatorships — who are like children manipulating, controlling, and oppressing their playmates. There can be no such thing as freedom from authority. There is freedom only under the authority of Christ and His Church. Any other so-called freedom is merely a thinly disguised totalitarian dictatorship.



21

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY

24th Week in Ordinary Time

RED

FEAST

MATTHEW



APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

(1st century)

Born at Capernaum, St. Matthew was a tax collector when called by Jesus. He wrote his Gospel for Jewish people who had become followers of Christ. He wanted his audience to know that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to send to save all people. It is believed that he established Christian communities in Ethiopia and other sections of Africa. St. Matthew is the patron saint for accountants, bankers, and tax collectors.

First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

℟. Their sound goes forth through all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

℟. The communion of Matthew with the Lord becomes the source, center, and goal of our lives. When Jesus returns at the end of the world, He will have supper with those in communion with Him (see Lk 12:37) and take them to His everlasting wedding banquet in heaven. "Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb" (Rv 19:9).

22

SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

THOMAS OF VILLANOVA



RELIGIOUS & BISHOP

(1486 - 1555)

Thomas of Villanova was a friar of the Order of Saint Augustine who was a noted preacher, ascetic and religious writer. He worked to improve the spiritual lives and living conditions of the faithful. He gave special attention to the needs of the poor, feeding and sheltering them in his own residence. During the same period he worked to promote education, restore religious orthodoxy, and reform the lifestyles of clergy and laypersons.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12

Teach and urge these duties. Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalms 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom.

Gospel: Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Ⓜ When we were baptized, we became disciples of Jesus. Disciples accompany Jesus. They help preach and proclaim "the good news of the kingdom of God" (Lk 8:1). Because Jesus' disciples have "been cured of evil spirits and maladies" (Lk 8:2), they are eager to use their authority and power from Jesus to heal and free others (see Mt 10:1). Disciples also assist the leaders of the Church out of their means (Lk 8:3). They do not love money; rather, they express their love for God by giving Him their money and themselves. Jesus' disciples flee from the ways of the world (1 Tm 6:11). They "seek after integrity, piety, faith, love, steadfastness, and a gentle spirit" (1 Tm 6:11). They "fight the good fight of faith" and "take firm hold on the everlasting life to which" they "were called". To live as disciples of Jesus, we must deny our very selves, take up our cross each day, and follow in His steps.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6:13-16

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5

℟ Come before the Lord, singing for joy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.' "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

℟ The best soil for a good harvest is newly tilled soil. What does that soil look like to a gardener? The soil is completely turned upside-down. It is broken-up into clods. It is not at all smooth. Yet such soil is optimal for making seeds sprout and grow. Have you ever had a broken heart and felt like your life was turned upside-down, inside-out, and worked over? Even now, are you in constant pain, with your life as one big upheaval? Then to Jesus, the Gardener (see Jn 20:15), you are a beautiful sight to behold. You are just like the good soil that has been tilled and worked over, ready for planting. Right now, decide to offer your upside-down heart and your life full of upheavals to Jesus. You might feel that you are so wounded as to be useless, that your life is too big of a mess to ever be set right.



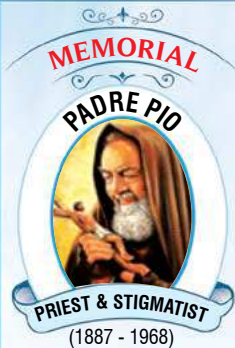
23

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY

24th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE



Padre Pio, also known as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina was an Italian friar, stigmatist and mystic. He was known for exhibiting stigmata for most of his life. Noted for patient suffering, fervent prayer, and compassionate spiritual guidance, he also lent his efforts to the establishment of a major hospital, the "Home to Relieve Suffering." He was reportedly able to bilocate, levitate, and heal by touch. He was canonized on 16 June 2002 by Pope John Paul II.