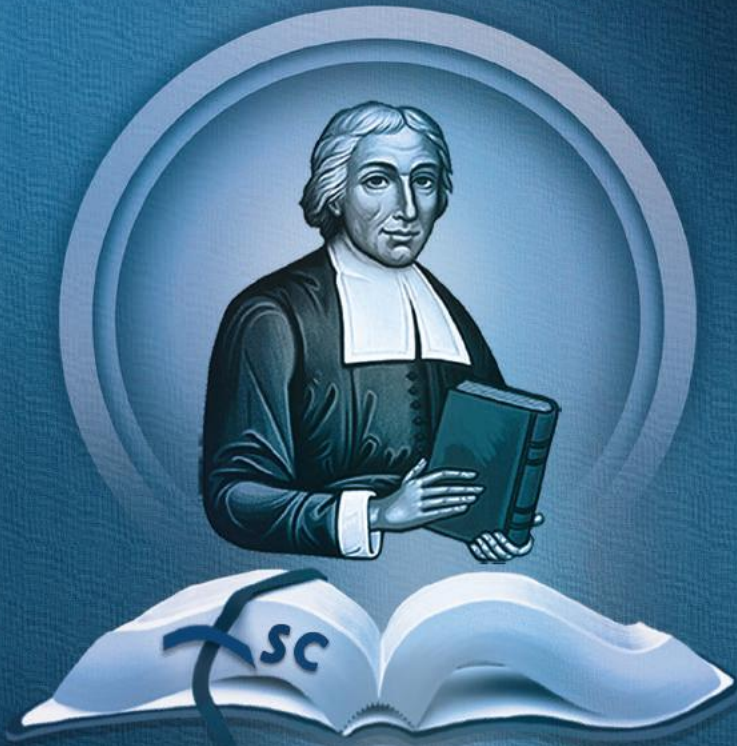




Brothers of
the Christian
Schools



WORD OF GOD
IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**

SUPERIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

De La Salle, in the FSC Rule of 1718, bequeathed to his brothers a deep love for God's Word: "The Brothers of this Society shall have a most profound respect for the Holy Scriptures; and, in proof thereof, they shall always carry the New Testament about them, and pass no day without reading some of it, ...looking upon it as their first and principal rule." At every key event in his life but also in those small daily steps, his heart was attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. De La Salle looked at the events unfolding in his life story in the light of God's Word and discerned how to respond to God's will as best he could.

We are also invited to open our hearts each day and find a special place and time to be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who is eager to speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. In this sacred space, we bring our life experiences and stories so the light of God's Word can reveal the deeper meaning and purpose of our life's journey. In this oasis, we dare to look at our story in the light of God's Story. In this sanctuary, we consider everything human as deserving of divine attention. In this temple, we open even the dark shadows in our hearts to be permeated with the light of God's presence.

In this loving exchange between my story and God's Story, God's Word becomes alive in me and through me. Every ordinary bush suddenly becomes enkindled with the holy presence, and nothing in my life is left untouched by grace. Wherever I am, I have the assurance that I am in the presence of God. Whatever I do, I am inspired to work with zeal as God's instrument of grace. Our journey through life will be as bright as the dawn if we heed God's loving invitation and claim this promise for ourselves: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105).

BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC

Superior General,

Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rome, Italy.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

℟: The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. *℟*

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all.
compassionate to all his creatures. *℟*

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *℟*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two; my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our heart, O Lord, that we may listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early, in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the unusual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market place; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner

Sunday

of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."



Ⓜ My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord." — Isaiah 55:8. So often people think or say: "The Lord's way is not fair!" (Ez 18:25) The laborers in the vineyard who worked all day were saying, in essence, the same thing. Seemingly, God treats the weak, sinful, marginalized, forgotten ones better than He treats the ones who faithfully serve Him. While the Lord lovingly pursues the lost, late ones, He goes so far as to leave the faithful ones seemingly alone "in the wasteland" (Lk 15:4). As today's first reading reveals, God's ways are not our ways. All praise and glory be to God that His ways are not human ways! Praise the Lord that "His ways are not fair" in the sight of humanity. Human history is littered with the refuse of sin, greed, injustice, and misery, which are the wages of human ways. The Lord's ways, on the contrary, are not limited to being "fair." His way is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, of great kindness.

25

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

25th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

CEOLFRID



ABBOT

(642 - 716)

Ceolfrid was an Anglo Saxon Christian abbot who is best known as the warden of Bede from the age of seven until his death in 716. He was the Abbot of Monkwearmouth Jarrow Abbey, and a major contributor to the project to produce the Codex Amiatinus Bible. On account of his outstanding sanctity and humility, he was sent to assist St. Benedict who was then founding the new abbey of Wearmouth.

BI. HERMAN OF REICHENAU

First Reading: Ezra 1:1-6

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared: "Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of those among you who are of his people—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem." The heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites—everyone whose spirit God had stirred—got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. All their neighbours aided them with silver vessels, with gold, with goods, with animals, and with valuable gifts, besides all that was freely offered.

Psalms 126:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6

℟️ What great deeds the Lord worked for us!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Gospel: Luke 8:16-18

Jesus said to the crowds, "No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away."

℟️ "He puts it on a lampstand so that whoever comes in can see it." — Luke 8:16. Jesus said there were four groups of people in this world. He compared these groups to a footpath, rocky ground, ground that produces briars, and good ground. Only one of the four groups receives God's Word so as to bear fruit. This means that we who share God's Word can expect a lot of failure. This makes us feel like keeping God's Word to ourselves. Nevertheless, the Lord commands us to put the light of God's Word on the lampstand of our lives so as to give light to all. The Lord also warns us that if we don't share His Word, we will lose it. If we hear and act on His Word by sharing it, Jesus promises He will consider us to be His mother, brothers, and sisters (Lk 8:21; Mk 3:35). The Lord gives us encouragement to share His Word despite the failure of many to accept it.

First Reading: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20

Let the work on this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of this house of God: the cost is to be paid to these people, in full and without delay, from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province Beyond the River. I, Darius, make a decree; let it be done with all diligence." So the elders of the Jews built and prospered, through the prophesying of the prophet Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo. They finished their building by command of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus, Darius, and King Artaxerxes of Persia; and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. The people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. They offered at the dedication of this house of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. Then they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their courses for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses. On the fourteenth day of the first month the returned exiles kept the passover. For both the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were clean. So they killed the passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.

Psalms 122:1-2. 3-4ab. 4cd-5

℟️ I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

℟️ How many of us are crowded? Our lives, minds, and schedules are crowded. We have so many demands pressing in on us. We can hardly breathe. We feel crowded out from Jesus. We can't seem to reach Him. We feel on the outside looking in (Lk 8:20). What can we do before we're crushed by the crowd? We can obey Jesus, hear God's Word, act upon it, and give our lives, minds, and schedules to the Lord. Jesus never gives us more than we have time for. He never overextends us, although sometimes we know this only by faith and not by sight. "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens" (Eccl 3:1). Jesus gives us sufficient strength (Phil 4:13) for what He has called us to do.



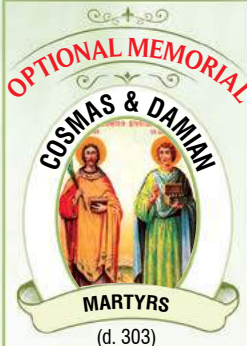
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SEPTEMBER

TUESDAY

25th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



Sts. Cosmas and Damian were two Arab physicians who practised their profession in the seaport of Aegae. During the persecution under Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were arrested by order of the Prefect Lysias, who ordered them under torture to recant. However, according to legend they stayed true to their faith, enduring being hung on a cross, stoned and shot by arrows and finally suffered execution by beheading. They are the patrons of physicians and surgeons.

27



SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY

25th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

LASALLIAN BLESSED



BL. SCUBILION ROUSSEAU

LA SALLE BROTHER

(1797-1867)

Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau was born in 1797 and beatified in 1989. The young Jean Bernard Rousseau volunteered to teach religion classes when he was a teen and then joined the Brothers in Paris in 1822. He left France to do missionary work when he was 36 years old. For the next 34 years he worked among the enslaved natives of the island of Reunion off the coast of India. He was dearly loved by the people of this island nation for his kindness and devotion to his students. He was primarily a catechist, a teacher of religion. In his later years, he visited the sick, won sinners over to Christianity, and was highly respected everywhere on the island as a living saint among the people. He died in 1867.

First Reading: Ezra 9:5-9

At the evening sacrifice I got up from my fasting, with my garments and my mantle torn, and fell on my knees, spread out my hands to the Lord my God, and said, "O my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our ancestors to this day we have been deep in guilt, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as is now the case. ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Tobit 13:1b-2, 3-4a, 6efgh, 6ij, 8

℟: Blessed is God who lives for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Gospel: Luke 9:1-6

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

℟ When Jesus sent out His twelve apostles, He "gave them power and authority to overcome all demons and to cure diseases" (Lk 9:1). Moreover, He did not allow them to take walking staff, traveling bag, bread, money, and extra clothes (Lk 9:3). Jesus made it clear that power and simplicity were essential to His mission. Worldly power is often complex. For example, armies, weapons, politics, and the media all are powerful and very complicated. In contrast, power in Christ is often simple. Power in Christ is often based on having less rather than more. Accordingly, the most powerful act in the history of the human race is Jesus' death and Resurrection. Jesus did this by emptying Himself (Phil 2:7). Jesus lived in poverty (see Lk 9:58) and died having nothing. In weakness God's power reaches perfection (2 Cor 12:9). "Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name" (Phil 2:9). Will you let the Lord make you poor and simple enough to be powerful? Will you believe in the simplicity of His power?

First Reading: Haggai 1:1-8

In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest: Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house. Then the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your panelled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. You have sown much, and harvested little; you eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and you that earn wages earn wages to put them into a bag with holes. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider how you have fared. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured, says the Lord.

Psalms 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

℟ *The Lord takes delight in his people*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord no one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel: Luke 9:7-9

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he tried to see him.

℞ Have you worked hard but gotten little out of it except a feeling of discontent? Have you eaten, bought, or consumed a lot but "not been satisfied"? (Hg 1:6) Have you stimulated yourself through drinking, distractions, sexual sin, sports, or entertainment but "not been exhilarated"? (Hg 1:6) Do you have a sense of emptiness and loss? We can be empty for many reasons. One common reason is that we may have put our concerns before those of God and thereby have committed idolatry. "The worship of infamous idols is the reason and source and extremity of all evil" (Wis 14:27). When we go after empty idols, we become empty ourselves. If you want to become fulfilled rather than empty, deny your very self and give your life to Jesus, in Whom absolute fullness resides. Hunger and thirst for righteousness, and you will be filled. Seek first God's kingdom, not yours, "and all these things will be given you besides" (Mt 6:33). "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).



28

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY

25th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



Born in Bohemia, St. Wenceslaus stood for Christian values in the midst of the political intrigues which characterized 10th century Bohemia. His rule was marked by efforts toward unification within Bohemia, support of the Church, and peace making negotiations with Germany, a policy which caused him trouble with the anti-Christian opposition. He was betrayed by his brother Boleslaus and was murdered in the year 935. He is the patron saint of the Czech state.

LORENZO RUIZ

29



SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY

25th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

FEAST



The Archangels are powerful messengers to bring promises of love and hope. St. Michael was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. St. Gabriel announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. St. Raphael took care of Tobias on his journey.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. ...*(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalm 138:1-2a, 2bcd-3, 4-5

℟ In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Gospel: John 1:47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Ⓜ Many people have a false impression of angels. They think angels are cute or sweet. This false impression contributes to a skewed view of God and of the entire plan of salvation. Many people think that life is a game and that life in Christ is nice, but not necessary. The fact is that angels are formidable and even terrifying. The name "Michael" means "Who is like God?" This is an in-your-face challenge to repent and humble yourself. The archangel Gabriel doesn't tolerate any foolishness. When Zechariah didn't immediately believe a message from Gabriel, the archangel said to Zechariah: "Now you will be mute — unable to speak — until the day these things take place, because you have not trusted my words" (Lk 1:20). If you don't talk properly to an angel, you may not talk at all. Moreover, the archangel Raphael doesn't seem to feel any "warm fuzzies" for us. He bluntly states: "As for me, when I came to you it was not out of any favour on my part, but because it was God's will". Angels don't necessarily make you feel good about yourself. Rather, the true understanding of angels confronts us with reality to check us from making God in our own image and likeness, and thereby warping Christianity past recognition. Believe divine revelation about angels, tremble at God's Word (Is 66:2), and know that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb 10:31), for He is a consuming Fire of love.

First Reading: Zechariah 2:1-5, 10-11a

I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length." Then the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him, and said to him, "Run, say to that young man: Jerusalem shall be inhabited like villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and animals in it. For I will be a wall of fire all around it, says the Lord, and I will be the glory within it." Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people;

Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13

✠ *The Lord will guard us, as a shepherd guards his flock.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel: Luke 9:43b-45

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

✠ The prophecy of Zechariah in the first reading is very striking. In a vision, the prophet Zechariah raised his eyes and saw a man measuring Jerusalem in preparation for her restoration (Zec 2:6; see also Ez 40:3). St. John, the apostle and evangelist, was also given a measuring rod to "take the measurements of God's temple and altar, and count those who worship there" (Rv 11:1). God's people were measured to be protected from destruction. The Lord is still measuring people. On the Church's first day, the Lord measured the size of His Church, and she numbered three-thousand believers (Acts 2:41). The Lord measures not only the Church's number but also her holiness. Eventually and finally, the Church will measure up to His standards: "a glorious Church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort" (Eph 5:27). The Lord also measures out time, talents, treasures, and so much more. If He gives us five talents, He expects us to return to Him five more. The Lord is measuring each of us right now. He is giving us the grace to measure up before the final measuring on Judgment Day. Are you measuring up or "measuring down"?



30

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY

25th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL

JEROME



HERMIT & DOCTOR

(c. 341 - 420)

Born at Strido, Jerome is well known for his translation of most of the Bible into Vulgate (the Latin translation of the Bible), and his commentaries on the Gospels. He lived for a time as a hermit, became a priest, served as secretary to Pope Damasus I, and established a monastery at Bethlehem. He was known for his teachings on Christian moral life, especially to those living in cosmopolitan centers such as Rome.