



Brothers of  
the Christian  
Schools



# WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**

# VISITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks in coming up with this new initiative to include a wider reader base for Lasallian Bible. The collection of reflections based on the “WORD OF GOD IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS” is fabulous and inspiring.

These short reflections can be a good starting point to begin each new month to get into the right disposition to continue to live in the Presence of God.

Congratulation to the communication Commission team for this worthy & wonderful effort and wish you the very best for future endeavors!

**BR. BERTRAM PERERA FSC**

Visitor

Provincialate Secretariate

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## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

### First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it, for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

### Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

*℟️ Remember your mercy, Lord.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and  
teach me; for you are God my savior *℟️*

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the  
love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth. *℟️*

in your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. *℟️*

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path;  
He teaches his way to the poor. *℟️*

### Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# Sunday

## **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.

## **Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32**

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."



**R** St Teresa of Lisieux is well known for what she called the "little way." She was declared a Saint only 28 years after her death and is the Patroness of the Missions. She explains her little way: "When I read certain treatises where many obstacles to perfection are shown, my poor mind grows tired very quickly. I close the learned book that wearies my head and dries up my heart, and I take instead the Holy Scripture. Then everything appears to me in a clear light. A single word opens out infinite horizons to my soul. Perfection seems easy to reach. I realize that it is sufficient to recognize one's nothingness and to abandon oneself as a child in the arms of God." In her autobiography "Story of a Soul" she left us with her recollections of childhood and adolescence, and also a portrait of her soul – the description of her most intimate experiences. She discovered the "little way of spiritual childhood," which consists in offering up to God in sacrifice everything one does or suffers, no matter how small or apparently insignificant; and she taught this "little way" to the novices entrusted to her care. The little way is most relevant to our Lasallian way of life. The daily classroom routine, in all its little aspects, becomes transformed into something beautiful for God.

# 2

## OCTOBER

### MONDAY

26<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

### WHITE

#### MEMORIAL

#### THE GUARDIAN ANGELS



The feast of the Guardian Angels refers to the belief that each person has an angel who is available to shepherd their soul through life, and help bring them to God. This protection continues throughout our whole life and ceases only when our probation on earth ends, namely, at the moment of death. Our guardian angel accompanies our soul to purgatory or heaven, and becomes our coheir in the heavenly kingdom.

#### First Reading: Zechariah 8:1-8

The word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the Lord of hosts? Thus says the Lord of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

#### Psalm 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23

*✠ The Lord shall build up Sion, he will appear in all his glory.*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Bless the Lord, all his hosts his servants, who do his will.

#### Matthew 18:1-5, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

#### Ⓜ Some of us still recall a childhood rhyme:

"Angel of God my guardian dear, To whom God's love commits me here; Ever this day/night be at my side, To light and guard, to rule and guide." We also know that St La Salle had a special devotion to the Guardian Angels and that he wanted his teachers to act as guardian angels of their pupils. They are to be "watchful guides...to guide the children through all the dangers they meet in the world...and to shield them from serious faults." (5th Meditation for time of Retreat). Although we do not see our angels, since they are pure spirits, we sometimes refer to human beings as angels, something St La Salle makes clear. I do not need to be convinced. I was saved from drowning when I was young. I always regarded the man who saved me as a guardian angel. We are also advised in Scripture to be hospitable to strangers because we might be entertaining angels unawares. This is a practical and a lovely thought.



3

OCTOBER

TUESDAY

26<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



St Theodora Guerin was a French American saint. She is the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of the St Mary-of-the-works, Indiana, a congregation of Catholic nuns. Guerin is particularly known for her advancement of education in Indiana and elsewhere, founding numerous schools including St Mary – of – the – woods College in St Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

**First Reading: Zechariah 8:20-23**

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, the inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Come, let us go to entreat the favour of the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going." Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to entreat the favour of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from nations of every language shall take hold of a Jew, grasping his garment and saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

**Psalm 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7**

*Rx God is with us.*

**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: Luke 9:51-56**

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

**R** As I write, the destruction seems mainly to be in the Ukraine as Russian forces pound it every day. Jesus' disciples wanted to pulverize a village in Samaria which refused him hospitality. For ethnic and religious reasons, the Samaritans and the Jews were bitterly opposed to one another. But Jesus simply rebuked the disciples and went on to another village. We are not talking about sports. If you or your team is defeated in a game, it is only natural to seek to win the next time you meet. If you do win, it is sometimes referred to as 'sweet revenge.' We are also not talking about a criminal offence. If the offence is criminal, the law will take its course. What we are talking about are the occasions when you may feel justified in taking revenge...on a thieving classmate, on a bully, on someone who has given you the cold shoulder, on someone who has slandered you, on someone who has put you out of business. It is natural to want to get your own back. Forget it, it will pass, says Jesus. Move on. When it comes to the teacher/student relationship, St La Salle is clear: "Help your pupils to avoid rendering evil for evil, injury for injury, and taking revenge."

# 4



## OCTOBER

### WEDNESDAY

26<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

### WHITE

#### MEMORIAL

#### FRANCIS OF ASSISI



#### STIGMATIST & FOUNDER

(c.1181 - 1226)

Born at Assisi, Francis gave up his inheritance and bound himself to God, embracing poverty and living the life of the gospels. He wore ragged old clothes, begged for food and preached peace. He is the founder of the Franciscans, Poor Clares and the Secular Franciscan Order. He was the one to receive the stigmata and arrange the first live Christmas nativity scene. He is the patron of animals, merchants, and ecology.

#### First Reading: Nehemiah 2: 1-8

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it." The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date.

#### Psalm 137: 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6

*℟. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I count everything as loss, because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and be found in him.

#### Gospel: Luke 9: 57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**℟.** St Francis is one of the best-loved saints. This may at least partly be due to his appreciation of the universe, exemplified in his famous Canticle of the Sun. Here we meet Brother Sun, Sister Moon and Mother Earth. This resonates with our modern cry for the protection of our planet. In his meditation for this great saint's feast, St La Salle concentrates on his compassion: "So great was the love of St Francis for the poor that he gladly gave them alms on every occasion and was unable to turn down anyone who asked him for anything, because he saw Jesus Christ in their persons and was convinced that whatever good he did to them, he did to Jesus Christ himself." Francis put into practice the Beatitudes, in his faith, joy, service of others, prayer and love of all created things. He was also a strong promoter of peace and one of his prayers is the beautiful Peace Prayer. Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

**First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12**

*...(please see appendix Page 499)*

**Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11**

*℟ The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

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

**Gospel: Luke 10:1-12**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, *...(please see appendix Page 499)*

℞ An important aspect of Lasallian spirituality is the love of scripture, the Word of God. John Baptist de La Salle went so far that he asked the Brothers to carry around the New Testament every day and to read and meditate on it. And so, our Rule says we are to "have a profound respect for Holy Scripture, especially the Gospel" and to "read and meditate on the Word of God every day." In his Meditation for the feast of St. Catherine, La Salle writes: "Often meditate on the words of Holy Scripture to encourage yourself to do what is right." St. La Salle wants us to make use of the treasure of the scriptures for our daily life. Peace, joy, praise, gratitude, sadness, desire for change; whatever is in my heart I say to the Lord in a simple and natural way. And what about our students? La Salle asks the teachers to become so familiar with the main sayings of scripture that they will be able to "inspire" their students to follow, to behave well at all times. Scripture will also inspire us to pray constantly for our students and especially for those undergoing difficulty. A nice summary of St. La Salle's view of Scripture is taken from his Meditation for the Feast of St. Jerome. "If you wish to be filled with the mind of God and entirely fit for your work, make the sacred books of Scripture your special study, and particularly the New Testament, so that it serves as a rule of conduct both for yourselves and for those whom you instruct." Perhaps we can make some sayings of Scripture our own?



**5**

**OCTOBER**

**THURSDAY**

26<sup>th</sup> Week in  
Ordinary Time

**GREEN**



St. Maria Faustina also known as the "Apostle of Divine Mercy" had a special devotion to Mary Immaculate, to the Sacrament, and to Reconciliation, which led to a deep mystical interior life. Her apparitions of Jesus Christ inspired the devotion to the Divine Mercy and she had an image painted of his Divine Mercy, with red and white rays issuing from his heart. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II on 30 April 2000.



6

OCTOBER

FRIDAY

26<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

BRUNO



ABBOT & FOUNDER

(c.1030 - 1101)

Born in Cologne, Bruno criticised the worldliness of his fellow clergy and led a life of solitude in an hermitage. Along with St. Hugh of Grenoble he founded the Carthusian Order who supported themselves as manuscript copyists. St. Bruno became an assistant to Pope Urban II and supported the pope's efforts at reform. He composed commentaries on the Psalms and on the Epistles of Paul the Apostle.

BL. MARIE-ROSE DUROCHER

**First Reading: Baruch 1:15-22**

And you shall say: The Lord our God is in the right, but there is open shame on us today, on the people of Judah, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on our kings, our rulers, our priests, our prophets, and our ancestors, because we have sinned before the Lord. We have disobeyed him, and have not heeded the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in the statutes of the Lord that he set before us. From the time when the Lord brought our ancestors out of the land of Egypt until today, we have been disobedient to the Lord our God, and we have been negligent, in not heeding his voice. So to this day there have been clung to us the calamities and the curse that the Lord declared through his servant Moses at the time when he brought our ancestors out of the land of Egypt to give to us a land flowing with milk and honey. *..(please see appendix Page 499)*

**Psalm 79:1-2, 3-5, 8, 9**

*℟ For the sake of the glory of your name, free us O Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Today, harden not your hearts but listen to the voice of the Lord.

**Gospel: Luke 10:13-16**

Jesus said, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But at the judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

**℟** Growing up in Ireland in the 1940s, pretty well every house contained a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in front of which was a glowing lamp, usually red in colour. Most pictures showed Jesus with his right hand raised in blessing while his left pointed to his heart, burning with love for us. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was to be especially observed on the first Friday of each month. I took the little house shrine for granted and in fact did not know what it was all about. What I did know was that it was appreciated by my parents who made a special effort to go to Mass and receive communion on those first Fridays. I learned later that Irish families had been consecrated to the Sacred Heart. The devotion was not a ticket to heaven but an encouragement to deepen our love for Jesus who is Love itself. We are to throw all our fears and anxieties into that love and rest in his heart. The heart, then, is the symbol of Christ's love. We have the strongest reminder of this on the Friday of Holy Week. Here we see Love itself hanging from a cross and forgiving those who put him there. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in Thee.

**First Reading: Baruch 4:5-12. 27-29 (Exodus 23:20-23)**

*...(please see appendix Page 499)*

**Psalm 69:33-35. 36-37**

**℟** *The Lord listens to the needy.*

**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 10:17-24**

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

**℟** When I was young and before retiring to bed, there was the recitation of the Rosary. Dad led the Rosary and led the Litany of Our Lady. We all knelt on the hard floor, with our backsides to the hearth fire. It could have led us to think of the fires of hell but in my memory the fire was always a benign presence, giving light and warmth. With Dad leading, the recitation of the Rosary was a serious business. Now and then, the cat playing with one of our rosaries or the dog chasing its tail gave us the giggles, but Dad's voice quickly restored order. St La Salle had a deep reverence for Our Lady and in his last will and testament he recommended the Brothers to have a special devotion to her. Indeed, after the first General Assembly and Retreat in 1686, La Salle took the Brothers on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Liesse, Our Lady of Joy. There he celebrated Mass and gave out Communion and entrusted the future of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools to Mary. Our Lady became the Patroness of the Institute. One way that the Brothers devised to express this devotion to Our Lady was by adding a sixth decade to the Rosary. This sixth decade is to honour the Immaculate Conception, to pray for the Church, for the Pope, for good vocations and for Brothers living or dead. The Rosary is a garland of roses for Our Lady.



**7**

**OCTOBER**

**SATURDAY**

26<sup>th</sup> Week in  
Ordinary Time

**WHITE**



This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam. The origin of the Rosary itself dates to a revelation in a vision by Our Lady herself to St. Dominic Guzman.