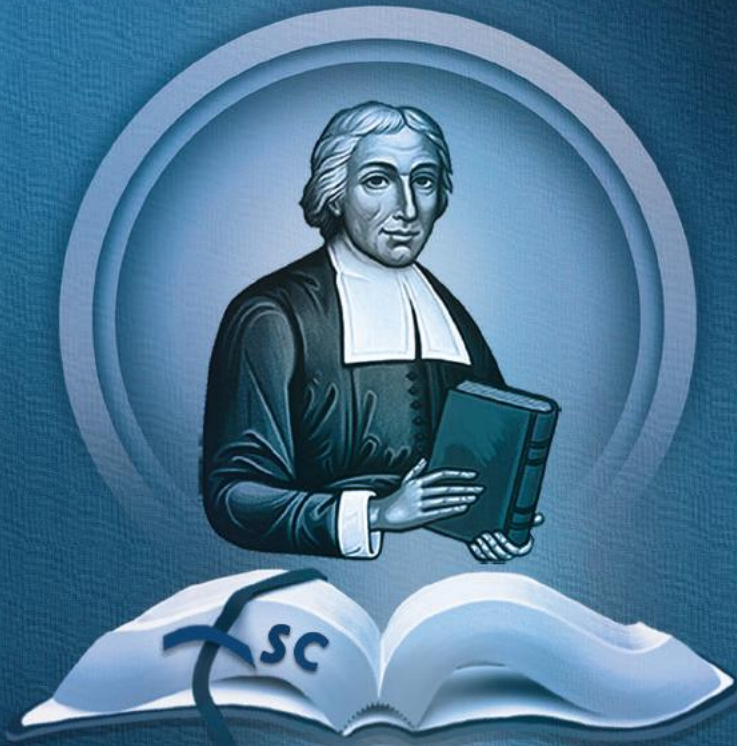




Brothers of
the Christian
Schools



WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

BIBLE DIARY **2023**

AUXILIARY VISITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Prayerful greetings to you.

Lasallian Spirituality is first, a spirit of faith, which should induce those who compose it not to look upon anything but with the eyes of faith, not to do anything but in view of God, and to attribute all to God and second is the spirit of zeal. The purpose of the Institute is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the church has entrusted to it.

Foundational intuitions of St. De La Salle: “Children deserve to know about a God who is good, to have their dignity recognized and to be educated for life.”

In the biography of Saint John Baptist de La Salle written by Brother Saturnino Gallego (1986), he develops at length the immovable conviction of the Founder about the right of all to education, regardless of their social condition. Moved by this conviction, he refused to limit admission to his schools to those who, in his time, were registered in the parish “catalogues” of the poor. We also owe it to him that his intuitions were transformed into initiatives to ensure that schools were open at all times to those who had to alternate between supporting their families and studying (flexible admission and even flexible timetables; Sunday schools, etc.). In this way, he made access to education possible, especially for the lower classes.

It's with great joy, I acknowledge the maiden efforts taken by the Communication Commission to bring out the “WORD OF GOD IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS” with the reflections of 13 Brothers all over the world sharing their lived spirituality for each month. I do believe that these daily reflections would enhance the quality of spiritual life of all who use it.

God bless us all.

BR. T. AMALAN FSC

Auxiliary Visitor

Lasallian South Asia District (LASAD)

Madurai-625 019, Tamil Nādu, India.



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard. My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

Psalms 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

℟️ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. *℟️*

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. *℟️*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore
Look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
The vine your right hand has planted. *℟️*

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back; Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. *℟️*

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord

Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard; put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.



Ⓡ It would be very hard to improve on Paul in the reading for today's Mass. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." Here is the magic, here is the key, and how we wish we could access it. Here is the key to the good life, to the life of the spirit, to freedom of the spirit, to the way of peace. St La Salle issues a warning: "There are many persons who seem to be spiritual and to possess interior peace, but who really lack it. Just say a sharp word to them or do something to irritate them and immediately they are quite upset." Instead, talk to God, he says and be thankful.

9



OCTOBER

MONDAY

27th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

LASALLIAN SAINT

ST. JAIME HILARIO



LA SALLE BROTHER

(1898-1937)

St. Jamie Hilario was declared a saint in 1999. Born Manuel Barbal Cosan 101 years earlier, he grew up in northern Spain. He joined the Brothers when he was 19 and then taught for 16 years. Bro. Jaime had hearing difficulties, so he left the classroom to work as a gardener at the young Brothers'; training center, known as "A House of Formation". A civil war broke out in Spain in the 1930s. The communist party that took control of the state blamed the Catholic Church for many of Spain's troubles. They arrested and killed church leaders. Bro. Jaime was among those to suffer this fate in 1937. He refused to deny his religion, saying to the soldiers ordered to shoot him, "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The frustrated commander then fired five shots at close range and killed Bro. Jaime.

First Reading :Jonah 1:1-17; 2:1, 10 ...*(please see appendix Page 500)*

Jonah 2:2, 3, 4, 7

℟ You brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

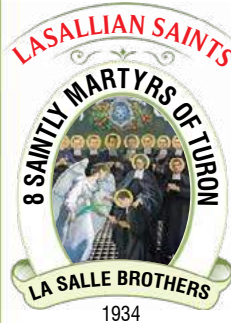
Alleluia, A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

At that time: A lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ...*(please see appendix Page 500)*

The Sainly Martyrs of Turon were canonized in 1999. The Spanish Civil War of the 1930s was both political and religious. Many in political power blamed the troubles of the country becoming more modern on the persuasion of religion. They also feared the influence religious leaders had on young people. Therefore, those

with military might used it against priests, nuns, and brothers. It was an October day in 1934. In Turón, in northwest Spain, the Brothers defied the ban on teaching religion. They openly escorted their students to Sunday Mass. In an attempt to eliminate the religious zeal of the Brothers, the army arrested them and their priest chaplain, and then shot them all. Brother Cirilo, the Director, was 46 years old and Brother Marciano, the cook, was 39. Brother Julián was 32. The other five brothers Victoriano, Benjamin Julian, Augusto, Andres, Benito de Jesus, Ancieto Adolfo were in their twenties. Aniceto Adolfa, the youngest Brother, was just 22.



℟ Six months after being arrested, Brother Jaime was sentenced to death and reacted with the same words the Founder used in difficult circumstances: "God be blessed!" To his family he wrote: "I have just been judged and condemned to death. I accept the sentence joyfully. They could not accuse me of anything. I was condemned simply because I am a religious. I will be waiting for you in Paradise." As he was being taken to his execution, he said to those around him: "What more could I ask for than to die, when my only crime is that I am a religious, and that I have worked for the Christian education of youth?" Brother Jaime was placed before a firing squad, and the order was given to open fire. The shots rang out, but he was unharmed. Again, the commander gave the order to fire, and Brother Jaime received a slight wound in his arm. Some of the soldiers dropped their guns and ran away. The commander approached and fired five shots at close range. Brother Jamie died at the age of 39, on 18th January 1937. From where do the martyrs get their courage if not from the depths of their being, their towering faith, hope and love? They are the most credible witnesses of God's love.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ...*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 7bc-8

℟️ *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?*

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Ⓜ️ Two brothers. Neighbours. John spent all his time busy around the house and barns. Martin went to the fields and always had time for a chat. We felt Martin had chosen the better part. Two students, Jason and Paul. Jason was inclined to bully, to bad-mouth. Paul either said nothing or tried to defuse the situation. Paul had chosen the better part. In the Gospel reading setting, Jesus makes it clear that listening to his word is the better part. James goes a step further and says we must listen and then put the word into practice. The better part might not be too difficult in ordinary, everyday situations, but come times of trouble and distress it is a different story. Take the story of St Maximilian Kolbe. Obviously, he took the better part, but oh so difficult. And so, there will be times when we need to be strong to choose the better part. There will be temptations to choose the evil way. We sure need to believe that we will not be tempted beyond our strength.



10

OCTOBER

TUESDAY

27th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



Born in Gandia, St. Francis was elected as the 4th Duke in 1543. After the death of his wife, he entered the Society of Jesus with the holy resolve of leading a hidden life and of closing the door forever to all earthly honors. As the Superior General, he founded the Collegium Romanum (Gregorian University), advised kings and popes, and closely supervised all the affairs of the rapidly expanding order.

11

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY

27th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

JOHN XXIII



POPE

(1881 - 1963)

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli also known as Pope John XXIII was Pope from 1958 to his death in 1963. He established the Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law and summoned the Second Vatican Council. He was noted for his humble simplicity, profound goodness, and deep life of prayer. His Encyclicals *Pacem in terris* and *Mater et Magistra* are well noted for social justice. He was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014.

First Reading: Jonah 4:1-11

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. *...(please see appendix Page 501)*

Psalm 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10

℟️ You are slow to anger, O Lord, and abundant in mercy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, You have received the spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Gospel: Luke 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

Ⓜ️ Pope John Paul XXIII was a roly-poly Pontiff who became a kind of father figure for the world. He was often referred to as the "Good Pope John." He became well known for his love of the simple life, for helping Jews to escape the Nazis during World War 2 and for calling the Second Vatican Council. Let's concentrate on his love of poverty. He was born in poverty - and proud of it. Even after he became Pope in 1958 at the age of seventy-six, he kept away from the trappings of his position, and refused to take advantage of it either for himself or his family. "I thank God for this grace of poverty to which I vowed fidelity in my youth... which has strengthened me in my resolve never to ask for anything - positions, money or favours - never either for myself or for my relations and friends." In his last will and testament, Pope John XXIII wrote: "Born poor, but of humble and respected folk, I am particularly happy to die poor. I have come across one of his quotes which could well become a life motto: "See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little."

First Reading: Malachi 3:13-4:2a

"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'" Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, ...*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

✠ *Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son..

Gospel: Luke 11:5-13

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

✠ **The knock on the door.**

A friend or neighbour calling for a chat. A policeman with bad news of a tragic accident. A military officer calling to haul out a "dissident." But the door in our Mass reading today is the door to Christ's heart and he tells us to keep on knocking and that we will find what we are seeking. One of my relatives suffers from Down Syndrome. It does not prevent him from emailing. In fact, he has been emailing me almost non-stop for many a year. It does not matter that his content is always more or less the same. He simply wants replies. He is knocking at the door. You will all have stories of persistent people in your lives. The moral in our Mass reading is more about persistence in prayer. Many Saints have talked and written about this. St La Salle was one of them. "If you love God, prayer will be the food of your soul. When you pray, let it be with such deep humility that God will not be able to refuse you. Knock, and the door will be opened.



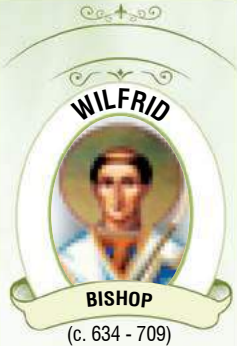
12

OCTOBER

THURSDAY

27th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



Born a Northumbrian noble, Wilfred was instrumental in bringing Roman liturgical practice and rules to the region, working influentially at the Synod of Whitby in 664. During his tenure he worked to enforce Roman ritual, founded Benedictine monasteries, and rebuilt the minster of York, all while living a simply and holy life himself. He was a great builder, a lover of learning, and a musician. He is the patron saint of Ripon, England

13



OCTOBER

FRIDAY

27th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

EDWARD



MATYR

(1004 - 1066)

Born in Wessex, Edward was among the last Anglo-Saxon kings of England. His reign was a peaceful one characterized by his good rule and remission of odious taxes, but also by the struggle, partly caused by his natural inclination to favour the Normans, between Godwin and his Saxon supporters and the Norman barons. In his later days, he became more interested in religious affairs and built St. Peter's Abbey at Westminster.

First Reading: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2 ...*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Psalm 92:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9 11-12

℟ *The Lord will judge the world with justice.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Now will the ruler of this world be cast out, says the Lord; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

Gospel: Luke 11:15-26

But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first."

℟ My eldest sister lived in rural Ireland. Two well-dressed young men approached her door and knocked. My sister, being of a hospitable nature, invited them in. Once settled, they launched into well-prepared speeches. Then one of them suddenly asked her, "Who is your greatest enemy?" My sister was stumped. She had no enemies that she could think of. While she was desperately looking for a response, one of the visitors gave her the model answer. "Your greatest enemy" he said, "is the devil." He then proceeded to give her a lecture on the devil. My sister was taken aback. She had been thinking about her neighbours, none of whom were enemies, and the devil was the last person on her mind. Do you sometimes think that, if the devil resides anywhere, it is in the mind? He is the one responsible for our temptations, for our evil thoughts and evil thoughts can lead to evil deeds, so the devil has a hand in them all. When Jesus met demon-possessed persons he just wanted to make them whole again, to free them from the darkness of sin to emerge into the glorious light of the children of God. During the pandemic plaguing the world as I write, we have been generally advised to adhere to social distancing. The practice of social distancing certainly makes sense when it comes to supping with the devil.

First Reading: Joel 4:12-21

Let the nations rouse themselves, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the neighbouring nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the wine press is full. The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shake. But the Lord is a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. So you shall know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it. In that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, the hills shall flow with milk, ...*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

℟️ Rejoice in Lord, you just.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: Luke 11:27-28

While Jesus was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

℟️ St James the apostle would heartily agree. What's the use of hearing the word he says if you do not put into practice? In correspondence with his brother-in-law, Bonhoeffer claims that the Bible alone is the answer to our questions, and we need to ask "persistently and humbly" in order to receive that answer. We have to be persistent in our prayer because God answers us only when we ask, and we must be humble because God requires submission to his Word. This means that we are to read the Bible not as a human document but indeed receive it as God's Word to us. It also means that we let God determine the place where He is to be found. That place is not at all pleasing to the natural man – for it is the place of the cross of Christ. It tells us that we are sinners who can be saved only because of Christ's sacrifice. It also tells us that those who want to find God must themselves take up the cross, as the Sermon on the Mount demands. This message, in short, is "strange" and contrary to our natural desires; yet it is the only answer to our questions. St La Salle loved the Word of God. He told his followers: "If you wish to be filled with the mind of God, make the sacred books of Scriptures your special study. How powerful is the word of God to touch hearts." "Oh the word of my Lord' Deep within my being; Oh the word of my Lord, You have filled my mind."



14

OCTOBER

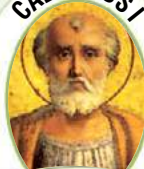
SATURDAY

27th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

CALLISTUS I



POPE & MARTYR

(d. 222)

Pope Callistus I, was the bishop of Rome from c. 218 to c. 222. As a pope he regulated the discipline of the sacrament of penance, ruling that penitent sinners were welcome in church. He defended the faith against the Adoptionist and Modalist heresies. Under the reign of Alexander Severus, he was thrown into prison, and then was tortured by starvation in prison and scourged daily. He is the patron saint of Cemetery workers.