

May 2022

# Community Newsletter

Thrive For Life

30 W. 16th St. | New York, NY 10011  
(212) 337-7544 | info@thriveforlife.org



## GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

## OTHER READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

## MONTHLY EXAMEN

We invite you to prayerfully reflect:

### *Presence*

Become aware that God's presence is active at each moment of your life, looking at you with love, desirous of speaking directly to your heart. How do you feel at this moment?

### *Ask*

Ask God for the grace to see the ways God is working in your life.

### *Gratitude*

Be grateful. Thank God for the gifts, both big and small of the day. What are you most grateful for today?

### *Review*

Trust that God is with you at each moment of day, during the good and challenging moments. God never abandons you.

What were the good moments of today?

What were the greatest challenges of today?

### *Respond*

You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be.

What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

*Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.*



## ACCEPTING INVITATIONS FROM GOD

When people think about the Apostles, Matthias is probably the most often forgotten! Chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles tells us how he acted when God chose him. He didn't try to convince people that he should be the one selected, but when their prayers led them to him, he accepted the responsibility. What a powerful example of accepting God's invitation – being an Apostle gave Matthias status, but he did not seek this status. He didn't run away from it either, understanding that this was how God was inviting him to do God's work in the world.

St. Ignatius wrote a meditation on three different types of people who have access to resources, and one type is those who have access but only seek to use the resources as God wants them to. This is the type of person that we are all invited to be. We may not have a ton of stuff that we can give, but every one of us is able, through prayer, to prepare our lives to do what God invites us to. God knows what's going on in our lives and cares for us no matter what. Maybe you're called to be a mechanic, a cook, or a plumber – if we act as God invites us to the job we do is not as important as the fact that it is how God is inviting us to work for our good and God's greater glory.

L. Lapean, *Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall, Fordham University*



## WAIT FOR THE LORD

I fell ill with cold recently. I had coughs, fever, headache, and overall exhaustion that lasted for three weeks. In the beginning I thought that resting for 3 days would be enough, but it was not. As soon as I went back to working, my cold symptoms got worse. It was as if my body was telling me that I needed to wait, wait for my body to naturally heal.

Naturally, I got impatient. For three weeks, I impatiently went back and forth between working hard and getting sick again, all the while asking God, “Why am I still sick? How long must I wait to get better?” I continued to ask God what I should do during my time of sickness. It felt like all I could do is wait. I felt useless.

However, maybe it was not a time wasted. I was not stuck. Rather, it was a meaningful time working for God. God knows more than anyone how much we are trying. God knows that we are trying to be good, trying to be patient with ourselves and with others around us. Waiting for God needs our patience. Waiting for God means that we trust Him, remembering that God loves us. Remembering the Love that we receive from God, we gain the strength to wait for God to make His move in our lives. Remembering his love, we hope. As we continue to live in the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection, we remember how God loved us first, and called us to be faithful through the times that we have to “wait”.

D. Park, *Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall,  
Fordham University*

## GLOBAL SYNOD: LET’S WALK TOGETHER AS A CHURCH WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

In 2018, Pope Francis invited all Catholics to participate in the Global Synod 2021-2023. “The purpose of the Synod is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.”

**Who is the Synod for?** By convoking this Synod, Pope Francis is inviting all the baptized to participate. Special care should be taken to involve those persons who may risk being excluded: women, the handicapped, refugees, migrants, the elderly, people who live in poverty, Catholics who rarely or never practice their faith, etc.

Call to Action Metro NY and Thrive For Life are working together to include the voice of the incarcerated in the Synodal Process. In May, you will receive an envelope with a questionnaire that includes multiple choice and open questions about your experience, both positive and negative, with the Church. Your participation is very important for the Church of today and of the future. You can also contact your chaplain for more questionnaires and invite other baptized to participate.



## BECOME A RESIDENT SCHOLAR AT IGNACIO HOUSE OF STUDIES!

If you are passionate about your education and wish to continue your academic journey post-release, Ignacio House offers transitional supportive housing along with a holistic suite of services for formerly incarcerated students. Find a sense of purpose and overcome barriers to employment, housing, and education.

Interested in joining? Send the following to our contact information at the top of this page:

- Full name & DIN number •
- Current college you are enrolled in and/or where you will study post-release •
- Contact information for college/university where you will study •