

GOSPEL FOR OCTOBER 4, 2021

Luke 10: 25-37

OTHER READINGS

John 13:34



REFLECTION

Building Bridges and Listening

Today I want to highlight the power of listening and interfaith dialogue.

Saint Francis, the famous 13th century man who founded the Franciscan order, is most commonly known for his communion with nature and for his beautiful poem “Canticle of the Creatures.” However, he was also the founder of Interreligious Dialogue. At a time when the Church was promoting the crusades, Francis joined. His intent was not to fight, but rather to meet the leader of the Saracens. Once there, he set out towards the enemy camp. They were captured and brought in front of Sultan Malek Al-Kamil. It was an awkward encounter as the Sultan asked Francis to convert to Islam. At the end of the encounter, neither was converted but a long lasting friendship based on respect and listening was born, as was an invitation for centuries to come on how to relate to people of different faiths.

One of the people to take this invitation seriously was Pope John Paul II. In 1986, he summoned 160 representatives in Assisi from many faiths from all parts of the world: indigenous faiths, various Christian denominations, Hinduism, Shinto, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and many others. John Paul II said on that occasion “There is no peace without a passionate love for peace.” My invitation to all of us today is to have a passionate love for peace! How will that show up in our life, and how will it transform our lives and the lives of those around us?

-Sabina F., spiritual mentor

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

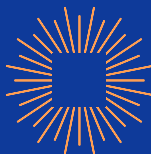
Trust that God is with you at each moment of day, during the good and challenging moments. God never abandons you. What were the good

moments of today? What were the greatest challenges of today?

Respond

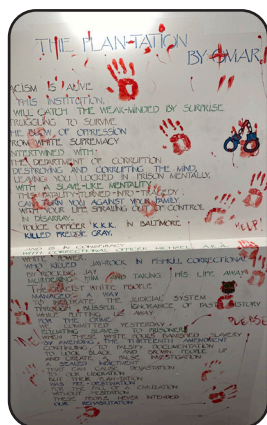
You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be. What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.



HEALING THROUGH ART WITH OMAR

For many folks, artistic expression serves a critical function in the road to healing. To become whole once again necessitates coming to terms with pain, suffering, and injustice. Wrestling with some of these themes has helped Omar, one of the brothers at Ignacio House, develop his voice through his painting and poetry.



Since his release, Omar has continued his education as a student at New York University where he has sought to deepen his understanding of the liberal arts, particularly as they concern understanding and critiquing oppressive institutions in our country. He finds that art illustrates a picture of the world through the lens of those who too often fall to the wayside.

Omar is a prolific writer and artist, having successfully published over a dozen original poems. Recognizing the powerful healing potential of art, he hopes to leverage his skills to one day start a non-profit of his own that will offer folks a means of healing through artistic expression. Omar also hosts a podcast titled *Second Chances: Voices of the Unheard*, in which he discusses a range of social, political, and economic topics and their intersections with issues concerning race, socioeconomic status, and inequalities more broadly.

WELCOMING OUR NEW JESUIT FRIENDS TO THRIVE FOR LIFE!

Thrive for Life is excited to announce three new additions to our family of staff members! Joining us from the Ciszek Hall Jesuit Community at Fordham University are three young Jesuit scholastics who will be working with us to support our ministry behind and beyond the walls over these next several months.

Our newest friends will play a crucial role in identifying and cultivating relationships with faith communities in the Bronx that are especially impacted by incarceration. In conjunction with our trained spiritual mentors, these men will help us facilitate retreats for the families and loved ones of our brothers and sisters behind the walls in these communities. As our full access to the prisons remains on hold, this ministry will prove critically important to sustaining and expanding our retreat programming.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Summer and Fall enrichment activities at Ignacio House of Studies

- † Technological Literacy Courses
- † Personalized Writing Skills Workshop
- † Wellness - Seeking Safety Workshop
- † SMART Goals Workshop
- † Ignatian Spirituality Workshop
- † Weekly Hour of Prayer and Contemplation

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, we urge you to consider becoming a Resident Scholar at Thrive for Life's Ignacio House of Studies.

At Ignacio House, we offer formerly incarcerated students transitional supportive housing along with a holistic suite of services to help them find a sense of purpose and overcome barriers to employment, permanent housing, and education. If you are interested in joining us, please send us the following:

- † 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.

To reach us, please see our contact information at the top of this page.