



## Best Friends

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**H**enry David Thoreau was a naturalist and philosopher who lived in Concord, Massachusetts, in the early 1800s. He spent a year living in a small one-room cabin in the woods at Walden Pond “because,” he said, “I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear.” Thoreau seems to have sought the same reality pursued by the author of the Book of Wisdom, who preferred Lady Wisdom to power, deemed riches to be nothing, and loved wisdom more than health or beauty.

Like the man who comes to Jesus wanting to know what he must do to inherit eternal life, most of us have a difficult time surrendering that to which we cling. It may be our possessions, our power to control others, the need to be youthful and stylishly dressed, or an addiction to drugs or gambling or pornography—anything that has become our “best friend.” Just as the apostles wonder who can then be saved, all of us wonder, because we, too, have one or another such “best friends.” It is God who breaks through, says Jesus. It may be a painful breaking through; it may be an upheaval; it may not be until the end of our lives. Always, it is God who ultimately turns us around. ●

### Reflect

*Who or what is your “best friend” that replaces God in your life?*

[Jesus said,] “Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

MARK 10:21



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## REFLECTIONS

### Jesus and the Rich Young Man

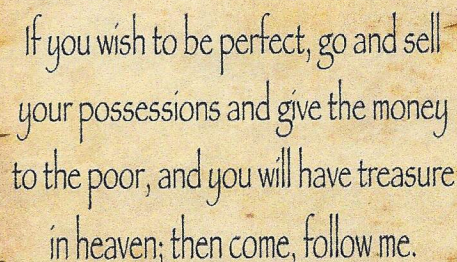
All three of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew 19; Mark 10; and Luke 18) offer accounts of Jesus being questioned about what is necessary for eternal life: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" On the surface it is a simple and reasonable question. Jesus' answer is simple: live according to the commandments, the same advice any Jewish rabbi would have offered. The young man responds that "all these I have observed from my youth." There is no suggestion that the man is lying or boasting; Jesus accepts his statement of fidelity to the Mosaic Law.

It is at this point, however, that the conversation gets interesting. "One thing you still lack," Jesus responds. "Sell what you have, give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." At this request, the man "went away sorrowful" because "he had great possessions." On the surface it appears that Jesus is condemning possessions, but there is much more to the story. It is not money or possessions that are evil. Jesus quite obviously has some well-off friends and disciples; think Lazarus and his sisters, Mary, and Martha, who entertain Jesus at their home on a number of occasions. It is not possession of wealth that corrupts, but our attitude toward possession that can lead us astray. Jesus is not asking the young man - or us - to do without material possessions or savings. Rather, what Jesus is asking of disciples is a clear sense of priority. All comes from God and is given to us to care for ourselves and our family, but also to be generously shared with those in need. Only you and your

family can decide what percentage of your possessions needs to be shared, based on prayer and reflection, but refusing to share is not an option for a Christian disciple.

More fundamental to this gospel story is the call to discipleship, a call which comes to each of us daily. It is a call which must be immediate, generous, and unconditional. Jesus is clear - once you have divested yourself of whatever it is that controls your ability and willingness to commit to the gospel, then follow. It is not possible to give God part of your life or to give it only on certain days or occasions or when it is convenient. As Jesus notes on another occasion, either you are with him or against him. The choice is challenging, to be sure, but it is yours to make. The consequences are forever.

*From Father Ken*



If you wish to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.



## My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary time (seven weeks until the beginning of Advent). This week, while reading about Saint Francis, I came across many reflections on his life and holiness. He tried to keep one of his gifts hidden – that of receiving the Stigmata – but, it was revealed to many of his Brother Franciscans. One writer declared: **Francis' stigmata should not be seen solely as a religious event. It is far more: it is a re-creation of an idea of suffering, and of conflict that is deeply imbedded in human experience.**

This week, we observe significant events and pay tribute to Saints: Columbus Day on Monday; Saint Teresa of Jesus on Tuesday; Saints Hedwig & Margaret Mary Alcoque on Wednesday; Saint Ignatius of Antioch on Thursday; Saint Luke the Evangelist on Friday; and Saint John DeBrébeauf & Companions on Saturday. Please join us at Mass as we honor these Saints.

Our Catholic Chapel-sponsored SFV picnic is getting closer. Sunday October 20th, from Noon until 3:00 PM at the PAX Center, we will have live music, games and boxed-chicken lunches. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and entertainment. If you have not signed up yet, you can sign up at the PAX business office or the on the sign-up sheet at the entrance to the Chapel.

Thanks again to Father Dan and Father Matthew for celebrating SFV Chapel Masses last week.

We are updating Chapel records and need your help. Forms for sharing your current address, telephone numbers, and emails are available at the Chapel entrance and in the Chapel Office. For security, you may put your completed form in the locked "Suggestion Box" inside the Chapel entrance or deliver them to Cat in the Chapel Office. We thank you for your cooperation.

Next Tuesday October 22nd at 7:00 PM in the PAX, we have another opportunity to serve those in need. Please join the Knights of Columbus in making 500 sandwiches for the homeless. This ministry is truly an Act of Charity ... a framework for showing love for our neighbors.

The Rosary will be prayed one-half hour before each Saturday and Sunday Mass during this month. The Catholic Church designated October as the "Month of the Rosary" because in this month the Church celebrates "Our Lady of the Rosary."

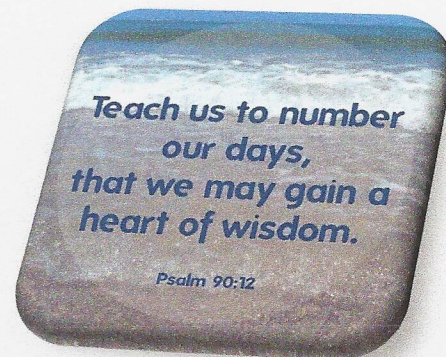
**Saint John Paul II called the Rosary his favorite prayer in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a Mother meditated on in her heart.** Please join us in this sacred meditation.

Continuing with our focus on Saint Francis, and in acknowledgement of his dedication to Christ, I offer this reflection:

*Francis' championing of poverty was not so much a desire to live as the poor might, but to strip himself of all attachments. He recognized that his previous life had been chained to wealthy family, social position and profession. All of them confined him in a web of relationships which made it impossible to define himself as a full human being in the Image of Christ.*

**May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

*God Give You Peace  
Mike Pierson*



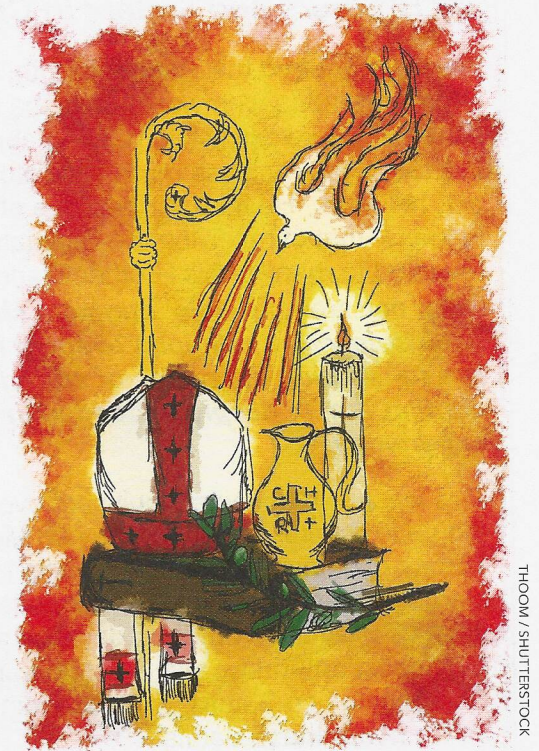
Mass Intentions	
Oct. 13, 2024	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Oct. 14, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Karen McCreary By Joseph McCreary
Oct. 15, 2024	Father Bob Strittmatter
Oct. 16, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Jennifer Kemp By Tom & Ruth Kemp
Oct. 17, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Mabel Groh By Jim Groh
Oct. 18, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Deacon Ricardo Chavez By Deacon Howard Herring
Oct. 19, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Gerry Lepine By Doris & Mike Pierson (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)



# Dear Padre,

*When should confirmation take place? I read that baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist were received all at the same time in the early Church.*

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation. The other two are baptism and Eucharist. In the early Church, all three sacraments were usually received at the same time because most people receiving baptism were adults. As infant baptism started to become the norm, this sacrament was separated from the other two. After Vatican II, the trend moved the age of confirmation into the teenage years, so that in many places, confirmation takes place in seventh or eighth grade, or even later. There is still an argument among liturgists, educators, and theologians about whether such a separation should exist. Some think of confirmation as a coming-of-age sacrament, marking, as it were, the transition from childhood into adulthood in the Church. The theology of this sacrament, however, is based upon baptism and connects it to the commission to go out and touch the world with our faith. The ideal age for confirmation is the age at which we can, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, conscientiously and reasonably witness to our faith. ●



*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
October 14	October 15	October 16	October 17	October 18	October 19	October 20
Weekday	St. Teresa of	Weekday	St. Ignatius of	St. Luke,	Sts. John de	Twenty-ninth
Gal 4:22–24,	Jesus, Virgin	Gal 5:18–25	Antioch, Bishop	Evangelist	Brébeuf and Isaac	Sunday in
26–27, 31–5:1	and Doctor	Lk 11:42–46	and Martyr	2 Tm 4:10–17b	Jogues, Priests,	Ordinary Time
Lk 11:29–32	of the Church		Eph 1:1–10	Lk 10:1–9	and Companions,	Is 53:10–11
	Gal 5:1–6		Lk 11:47–54		Martyrs	Heb 4:14–16
	Lk 11:37–41				Eph 1:15–23	Mk 10:35–45
					Lk 12:8–12	or 10:42–45



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*A faith without giving, without gratuitousness, without works of charity makes us sad in the end: just like that man who returned home “sorrowful” with a fallen countenance, even though he had been looked upon with love by Jesus in person. Today we can ask ourselves: “At what point is my faith?”*

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 10, 2021