



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Catech 470, 12

2026 OUR WORLD, FAMILY OF FAMILIES –

MARFAM THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

OCTOBER : FAMILY ON MISSION

SEASON OF CREATION cont - 1 - 4 OCTOBER 2026.



Using a SEE-JUDGE-ACT format, daily scripture-based reflections include quotations from Popes Francis and Leo. Family-focused Thoughts of the Day are published on www.marfam.org.za, facebook and whatsapp. Email request to info@marfam.org.za. Check out MARFAM shop www.marfam.org.za/shop/ print booklets to order or download.

Abbreviations: Pope Francis: EG = *Evangelii Gaudium*, LS = *Laudato Si*. AL = *Amoris Laetitia* FT = *Fratelli Tutti*. Pope Leo DT = *Dilexi Te* and *Magnifica Humanitas MH*

Magnifica Humanitas and the **CIVILISATION OF LOVE**. This recent encyclical from Pope Leo is extensively used here. It can be downloaded in full from www.vatican.va for study and use for faith sharing, in families and groups, a form of synodal dialogue. The objective and task chosen by Pope Leo XIV of **building a civilization of love** can be related back to Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II and the 1994 World Meeting of Families with the theme **FAMILIES – HEART OF THE CIVILISATION OF LOVE**. Promoting this together with the vision and model of “Church as Family and Family as Church” are MARFAM’s mission through Becoming Eco-Friendly Families.

OCTOBER 2026 overview. Family on Mission. Every single family of any description, human, plant or animal has a role to play, to sustain our World as a Family of Families. As the human family, we have the power to deliberately choose our sense of mission. As Catholic Christians we are “baptized and sent.” We cannot afford selfish greed, or hurtful violence, but are called to adopt God’s mission of love, love of creation and of all its creatures. St Francis, the patron saint of ecology is our inspiration on our mission. *Pope Francis: The family is an agent of pastoral activity through the explicit proclamation of the Gospel, their witness, solidarity with the poor, openness to diversity of people, protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families and commitment to the common good.* AL 290

SETTING THE SCENE. Thoughts for the Day are set in random groups sharing their perceptions and life experiences to illustrate the scripture passage of the day and add elements of Catholic teaching.

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION during the Jubilee Year of St Francis.

St Francis, our brother, you who 800 years ago, went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us with the Lord. You who recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation, that breaks down all walls. You, who unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world erects borders, in this age marked by conflict and division. Intercede for us that we may become artisans of peace; unarmed and disarming witnesses to the peace that comes from Christ.

Daily Prayer for Mission Month October, Year of St Francis and upcoming Local Elections in SA.

Heavenly Father, during this Mission month, we praise and thank you for the gift of your love and the riches of your creation. As missionary disciples we answer your call to walk in the way of peace. We lift up to you all leaders of nations. Grant them an open heart and a listening ear to hear the cries of the poor and the needy. Bless all missionaries, protect them from harm, strengthen their hearts in times of trial, and fill them with the joy of your Spirit. As we prepare for the elections and a renewal of society for the common good we acknowledge our shortcomings and faults. We hear the needs that call for help to build a united country under God, as a family of all the families of creation. Mary, Mother of the Church and of the Rosary pray for us. St Francis, our model and patron saint of all of creation pray for us. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen

October 1. St Therese of Lisieux. Season of Creation. The families in the parish were invited to read her story and share their responses. Therese grew up as a pampered girl and when she felt the calling to become a Carmelite her family didn’t think she would be strong enough. She persisted and entered the convent at age 15. Ill-health did prevent her from going to a mission country which is what she wanted but she kept her love for the missions. She spent the last 9 years of her life aiming at perfection through what she called “the little way” and through prayer and meditation. Her little sacrifices of ordinary events in her daily life were seen as flowers and this simple spirituality earned her the title “the Little Flower.” After hearing the story little Lizzy said, “I think I can be a missionary like St Therese too, doing all my chores as best I can.” Pauline added, “Why don’t we use the idea of a flower for each of the sacrifices we make too. Then we can take those flowers to someone who is sick, in the parish or community.” Mom

added, "I think her parents and all the family were really exceptional people. Her mom had 9 children, 4 died in infancy and the remaining 5 girls all joined Therese and became Carmelite nuns."

Reflect, share, act. Scripture: *Jesus said, "unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. Mat 18:1-5. Pope Francis:* *St Therese invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. Our prayers also extend to the saints and blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life. MV24. Eco-tip and prayer:* Share how St Therese can be a model for each family member.

DAILY FAMILY PRAYER from Season of Creation 2026. May God our Father, who brought water from a rock, sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord, who is Living Water, refresh us for the work of restoration. May the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen. St Francis guide and inspire us on our way.

October 2. Guardian angels. There is a very long tradition in the church of devotion to our guardian angels. In recent years this seems to have faded with a greater interest in angels in general. We often see pictures of cute cuddly little creatures with wings and sometimes angels are portrayed as avengers at the gates of heaven or hell. All angels are messengers from God, but our guardian angels bring the message of God's care and love to a specific person. This can be a real source of comfort to children especially. Families can use the prayer with the young and you might find that as the kids grow up they may still use the prayers they learned as children. *Prayer: Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

Reflect, share, act. Scripture: *Jesus said, "see that you do not despise these little ones; I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. Matt 18:10. Pope Francis:* *Each of us has a Guardian Angel, who acting on behalf of God, advises us and protects us from evil, if we only listen to him. 2015 message to families. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. LS 159*

Eco-tip and prayer: Examine your prayer life with your guardian angels too as Eco-friendly families. How can it be enriched? Get MARFAM'S booklet *BECOMING ECO-FRIENDLY FAMILIES* to use for sharing and prayer.

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October 3. FAMILIES WALK THE TALK. (From *BECOMING ECO-FRIENDLY FAMILIES*). To "walk the talk" means to actively live out what we believe, to "put your money where your mouth is". If some of us are doing something we think is important, and also sitting together, sharing our thoughts and feelings, listening well and feeling understood we're, "walking the talk." That is the meaningful dialogue which is being promoted through the Church's Synod process. Too often our talking is hardly a conversation, as we shout, mumble, whatsapp or text one another, talk at or past each other and hardly listen with more than half an ear. Meaningful communication is essential in building good relationships but also fixing any issues that are causing family conflict. Too often we choose to be "too busy" for one another, even as we go out to do good and help others. Why not fix family first!

Walking the talk is also going beyond just talk, but taking action and standing up for what we believe, even lobbying for a cause as simple as "don't drink and drive." It is good for a family to act together when it comes to saving water, electricity and recycling at home, but adopting an external cause together can be particularly good. Example: Save the rhino, clean-up our town, protect unborn life.

A FAMILY TALK WALK is an activity for family members to take time together, ideally in nature or a pleasant setting, maybe with dog, pram or wheelchair for elderly, walking and talking as they go. No fixed distance, or time. Not a "Big Walk" fundraiser or exercise. A moment to bond that is good for family unity.

Reflect, share, act. Scripture: *The 72 returned with joy saying, "Lord even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them. I saw Satan falling like lightning from heaven. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17-24. Pope Francis:* *writing in preparation for the Synod on Synodality 2021-2024. Co-responsibility for the common mission calls families to cooperate in building the fabric of the Church. Let us give them space and a listening ear so that they can participate in the synodal journey, showing the family face of the Church. The family is the way of the Church. The Church is in fact a family among families FT276. The family is an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to*

the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures beginning in the territory in which the family lives. AL 290. Eco-tip. Examine how effectively your family does “walk the talk” as becoming more eco-family-friendly.

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October 4. St Francis. End of Season of Creation. Michael shared with his fellow confirmation candidates. “Just like there are many Theresa’s there are also many Francises in parishes and families. Quite often children choose these as their confirmation patrons and to be their role models.” “How much do you know about St Francis, so that he can really be a model for you?” Tracy asked. Michael shared, “He lived 800 years ago. He was a playboy, came from a wealthy family but in a conversion experience Jesus appeared to him and said, ‘Go and rebuild my church.’ At first he thought he had to go and rebuild a broken down old building but what Jesus meant was to go and build up the people, including himself, to love Jesus, the poor and all of creation, animals and plants too. Although his later life was not easy as he suffered much from nearly going blind and the pain of the stigmata – the five wounds of Jesus on his body – he was filled with the joy of love.” Michael then added, “We, in our family, have discovered St Francis and try to follow his example. Our parents really are witnesses to us and in the world. I believe we can truly say “Our world is a Family of Families.”

Reflect, share, act. Scripture: *Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls Matt 11: 28-29.*

Pope Francis: to Youth at World Youth Day 2023 and often repeated, *The youth and elderly need one another. The elderly are their roots and wisdom and the youth the source of joy and hope. In calling to mind the figure of St Francis of Assisi, we come to realise that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change. LS 218. St Francis faithful to scripture invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. Eco-tip:* Young people could do more to make St Francis a true model of an eco-family-friendly caring way of life. Begin together with a prayer and a special blessing of all animals, pets, domestic and wild? Pray with St Francis Canticle of the Creatures or the Peace Prayer of St Francis.

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-----END SEASON OF CREATION-----

October 5. SEE. Good Samaritans. Anti-foreigner demonstrations wracked our country earlier in the year. Protests focused on illegal foreign nationals and their families from neighbouring countries calling for their deportation. Authorities were unhelpful in many cases as chaos reigned for some time during the coldest weeks of winter. Many refugee families were displaced and fled, some returning to their home countries. Others found refuge at embassies where locals, churches and charities contributed towards their basic needs. Was the situation politically instigated? Was the concern about foreigners stealing jobs from locals sufficient cause? Was the situation just and the plight of children, mothers and fathers forced to abandon the lives they had created reasonable? Where was our common humanity and the recognition of the dignity of every person, as our Constitution guarantees the rights of every person who lives here?

The whole matter is emblematic of South Africa's biggest scourges, xenophobia towards other African nationals, inability of the state to take decisive action, control lawlessness, crime and brutality from all sides. The issue of migrants and refugees has by no means been resolved as it continues to fester here as in many other countries. Was this incident a modern day Good Samaritan story gone bad?

JUDGE. Reflect, share. Scripture: *“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and he fell among robbers..... Read the parable of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37. Pope Francis:* *Migration is a sign of the times to be understood in terms of its negative effects on family life. A pastoral programme addressed not only to families that migrate but also to those family members who remain behind is required. AL46. Love can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes and behaviours that are shown in daily living. MV9. Pope Leo:* *Migrants are people with dignity, resources and dreams, who have the right to be treated with respect and to ask to become active members of the societies that welcome them. Social justice in this area entails two complementary commitments: protecting the rightful hopes of those forced to leave by ensuring safe and legal routes,*

dignified conditions for receiving them, and genuine pathways to integration. It means promoting the right to remain in one's homeland in peace and security by addressing the root causes that force people to migrate, including those linked to economic injustices and the climate crisis. When these rights are respected, migration can become an opportunity for encounter and mutual enrichment among peoples. MH 81.

ACT AND PRAY. As appropriate in the context of the anti-migrant protests of our day.

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October 6. SEE. Discipleship. We do often still speak of the husband being the head of the wife, but increasingly equality is considered the norm. In Luke's story of the family of Mary and Martha there appears to be no husband or children. The woman friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha, gave him welcome in different ways: listening to and serving him. Home life in Jesus' day was well ordered: Martha possibly was head of the household, a manager providing well. Mary welcomed Jesus as a disciple and follower. We welcome our guests too - as best we can, by giving food as well as by listening.

JUDGE. Reflect, share. Scripture: *At that time Jesus entered a village, and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who sat at the Lord's feet and listening to his teaching. Luke 10:38-42*

Pope Francis: *it is not enough to show generic concern for the family in pastoral planning. Enabling families to take up their role as active agents of the family apostolate calls for an effort at evangelisation and catechesis inside the family.*

AL 200. Pope Leo: *MH220. Dialogue is an ordinary part of human life and does not only concern relations between States. It involves acquiring an attitude that seeks to forge bonds of fraternity built on listening, an open demeanor, making time for each other and even wasting time together. For if we experience authentic encounters with others, with those who are different, strangers and migrants, it becomes much more difficult even to imagine war.*

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October 7. SEE. Our Lady of the Rosary. "Do those people selling rosaries on street corners really know what it is?" Ann asked her mom. "Do you?" was mom's reply. "Yes well....." "Some families do pray the rosary at home, some in church and many pray as individuals. 'The family that prays together stays together' was the slogan of the Rosary campaign of the 1950s. We still need to pray and stay, but also to play together, don't you think? The Rosary is not only a repetitive recitation of prayers, but a reflection on events in the life of Jesus and Mary, dedicated to God and at Mary's request offered for peace in the world. Why not teach that to the street sellers and, of course let's pray it at home too? We all need to work for peace."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. "Lord teach us to pray." "Our Father..". From Luke 11: 1-4 . *The most diverse messages and the most unpredictable experiences rapidly make their way into the lives of children and adolescents, and parents can become quite anxious about the dangers their children face. Parents suffer acute disappointment at the failure of their children to resist the seductions of the drug culture, the lure of an unbridled hedonism, the temptation to violence, and the manifold expressions of meaninglessness and despair. To pray the Rosary for children, and with children, training them from their earliest years to experience this daily "pause for prayer" with the family, is not the solution to every problem, but it is a spiritual aid which should not be underestimated. John Paul II MARIAE 2002. Pope Leo: MH 244. The Blessed Virgin Mary not only teaches us to recognize God's invisible work, but also directs our gaze to "the points at which humanity is broken and the world becomes distorted: the contrast between the*

humble and the powerful, the poor and the rich, the satiated and the hungry,” teaching us “to look at the world from a lower position: through the eyes of those who suffer rather than the mighty; to view history through the eyes of the little ones, rather than through the perspective of the powerful; to interpret the events of history from the viewpoint of the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the wounded child, the exile and the fugitive.”

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October 8. SEE. A Father's Care. Paul said, “Pope Francis continually challenged us to help others and share with the poor. Pope Leo has continued that concern. We as ordinary citizens are inclined to get sceptical about the beggars at traffic lights, is it for work, for food or for drugs? But I suppose one should say that all the protests and demonstrations about land, service delivery and jobs are what Luke would have been talking about. Shona added, “Sharing bread among friends is already a sacred thing; when we are in need our real friends will make God present for us in this way. Knocking on doors and asking eventually does get results! Snakes and stones and scorpions will not be the gift of the Father, but certainly God will give the Holy Spirit who will then call us to our mission of discipleship”

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *What father among you if his son asks for a fish will give him a serpent? If you 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. Luke 11:5-13. Pope Francis: Water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot buy bottled water and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. Imbalances are in the premature death of many of the poor and conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources. LS 48 Pope Leo: 210. The construction of a world in a state of perpetual conflict is an evil and must be named for what it is. This way of portraying our current situation may seem bleak or pessimistic, yet I consider it necessary to do so. The Christian perspective, however, is not limited to denouncing evil. We view history in the light of the crucified and risen Lord, to whom the Father has given “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Mt 28:18). We do not consider the present as a predetermined fate, but an opportunity for personal and collective conversion. MH 210*

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October 9. SEE. Casting out demons. Their RCIA catechist told the group, “There has been a lot of talk about false prophets, healing and casting out demons recently, within society and the different churches too. How can we really know who is on God's side or just out for himself?” She left them to debate and invited them too to take the issue home to their teenagers. “Remember, we must always be on guard against evil rebounding in our hearts & homes, if we let things be, it could become seven times as bad!”

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. He who is not with me is against me. Luke 11:15-26 Pope Francis: Called to take root in every place the Church has been present for centuries throughout the world, for that is what it means to be “catholic.” She can understand from her own experience of grace and sin, the beauty of the invitation to universal love. FT 278. Pope Leo: Avenues for exercising responsibility are sustained by prayer, and in turn nourish prayer. Indeed, for each of us, peace primarily comes “from God, God who loves us all, unconditionally.” It is a gift given by Jesus to his disciples on the day of Easter: “Peace be with you! It is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering.” MH228.*

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October 10 . SEE, Openness to others. The RCIA group discussed many relevant life-related issues: "I have been fascinated how in African families goods and money are shared more readily than in white families. I don't know if my brother would pay my children's school fees." "But do we not also have to look beyond our own families? Should I offer to pay school fees for those refugee children or donate regularly to the orphan programme?" "Many of us give to charity in a general way but would it be good to make it more personal, like with a twin parish or within a sodality?"

JUDGE. Reflect, share, act. Scripture. *A woman said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you." Jesus said, "blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:27-28. Pope Francis: Led by the Spirit the family circle is not only open to life by generating it within itself, but also by going forth and spreading life by caring for others and seeking their happiness. This openness finds particular expression in hospitality. The family lives its spirituality precisely by being at one and at the same time a domestic church and a vital cell for transforming the world. AL 324. Pope Leo: As the first natural society, endowed with foundational rights, the family is the fundamental and irreplaceable cell of every community organization. Consequently, when political projects and major economic decisions relegate the family to a marginal or secondary role, the authentic growth of the entire social body is compromised. The family, however, is a fragile social good immediately affected by the economic and technological transformations reshaping the nature of work. It thus requires cultural, juridical and economic support. MH165-6*

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October 11. SEE. Sunday 28A. Wedding Guests Before he began his homily Fr Teddy would look around his congregation and ask himself. "Who is here or not here and why have they come? How much do they value this banquet to which Jesus invites us all or am I in a way not making it wholesome enough for them? Is it up to me or should these families of the parish themselves not be going out on Jesus' behalf and inviting others to come to the banquet? Maybe I will ask them if they see themselves as the invited guests, or the later uninvited guests or those sent out to look for others. Maybe Pope Francis' three areas of ministry and the synodality themes apply here: "communion, participation and mission."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good so the wedding hall was filled with guests." From Matt 22:1-14. Pope Francis. There are three areas for ministry. 1. Ordinary pastoral ministry is to inflame the hearts of the regular faithful. 2. Ministry to the baptised who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church which tries to help them experience a conversion which will restore the joy of faith and a commitment to the gospel. 3. Evangelisation is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ or who have always rejected him. EG 14. Pope Leo: Today, we must resolutely recover the vision, of the civilization of love, no naïve utopia, but a demanding project, which consists in translating charity into structures of justice, giving institutional form to fraternity and regarding others — whether individuals or peoples — as allies necessary for building the common good. MH 186*

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missionaries, protect them from harm, strengthen their hearts in times of trial, and fill them with the joy of your Spirit. As we prepare for the elections and a renewal of society for the common good we acknowledge our shortcomings and faults. We hear the needs that call for help to build a united country under God, as a family of all the families of creation. Mary, Mother of the Church and of the Rosary pray for us. St Francis, our model and patron saint of all of creation pray for us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

October 12. SEE. Jonah's story. When she sat down and thought about it Antonette realised that there is a bit of Jonah in all of us. "The story tells of a Jew sent by God to people to call them to repent. He didn't want them to repent, but to be punished. Yes, after running away from God he did eventually go and preach to the wicked and brutal people of Nineveh and they did repent, but his initial response was, "No way, these wicked people should be punished." How often have we heard people say things like, "He should rot in hell for what he has done to that innocent girl." The brutal reality of terrorism today is very much like the time of Nineveh and still happens in the Middle East, Sudan, Africa and elsewhere. But God loves all people & wants them to be saved. Jonah eventually agreed that God can forgive and show mercy to anyone who repents.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *The men of Nineveh will arise at the judgement with this generation and condemn it for they repented at the preaching of Jonah. Luke 11:29-32. Pope Francis: Mercy is not only the working of the Father; it becomes a criterion for knowing who his true children are. AL 310. Pope Leo: The poorest of the poor are not only objects of our compassion but teachers of the gospel. It is not a question of bringing God to them, but of encountering him among them. These examples teach us that serving the poor is not a gesture from above, but an encounter between equals. DT 79.*

Daily Prayer for Mission Month October, Year of St Francis and upcoming Local Elections in SA. Heavenly Father, during this Mission month, we praise and thank you for the gift of your love and the riches of your creation. As missionary disciples we answer your call to walk in the way of peace. We lift up to you all leaders of nations. Grant them an open heart and a listening ear to hear the cries of the poor and the needy. Bless all missionaries, protect them from harm, strengthen their hearts in times of trial, and fill them with the joy of your Spirit. As we prepare for the elections and a renewal of society for the common good we acknowledge our shortcomings and faults. We hear the needs that call for help to build a united country under God, as a family of all the families of creation. Mary, Mother of the Church and of the Rosary pray for us. St Francis, our model and patron saint of all of creation pray for us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

October 13. SEE. Hypocrisy. "Putting your money where your mouth is" was the topic of the J&P talk to the youth. "How hypocritical are we?" the speaker asked. "It's really hard when you're dealing with other youth to be completely open and honest. I think we tend to make an impression on others, or say what we think they might like to hear. It is like, when we come to meals, we must purify our hearts as well as our hands if we are to share food & wisdom well. God knows our inner thoughts and giving to the poor and almsgiving should not be just for show.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *Give for alms those things which are within, and behold everything is clean for you. Luke 11: 37-41. Pope Francis: Any attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented. People may well have a growing ecological sensitivity but it has not succeeded in changing their harmful habits of consumption which appear to be growing. A simple example is the increasing use and power of air-conditioning stimulated by sales and the market. The markets, which immediately benefit from sales stimulate ever greater demand. LS 54-5. Pope Leo: Almsgiving is not looked upon favourably even among believers. Not only is it rarely practiced, but is even disparaged. The most important way to help the disadvantaged is to assist them in finding a good job, so that they can lead a more dignified life. But if this is not possible almsgiving is a necessary means of contact, encounter and empathy. It offers us a chance to halt before the poor, to look into their eyes, to touch them and to share something of ourselves with them. DT 115-6*

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October 14. SEE. Jesus' condemnation. There is a kind of parable story about a farmer who wanted to give his farm animals a nice breakfast of bacon and eggs as a reward. The hen was quite happy to provide the eggs, but the poor pig sure wasn't. "You give from excess," he said, "I give from substance." Giving to God and the Church demands balance and discernment as well as generosity. Wisdom is knowing what is what. Some modern-day churches that demand that their members tithe to be in God's good books may manipulate people's commitment for their own benefit and show little genuine care for the needs of their own flock.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *Woe to you, Pharisees, lawyers also, for you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. From Luke 11:42-46. Pope Francis: The worship of the ancient golden calf (Ex 32:1-35) has returned in a new and ruthless guise in the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose. EG 55. Pope Leo: A profit-driven economy weakens family ties, many elderly people are left behind by children forced to migrate, or in some instances to fight in wars. The Church joyfully proclaims the Lord's promise to the elderly, "I will never forget you!" From Day for elderly 2026.*

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October 15. SEE. There was a social worker in the parish who regularly helped migrants and refugees to obtain documents and permits. She was asked to facilitate a discussion on the government policy of integration of foreigners and the current anti-foreign atmosphere in the country, which has been the cause of the protests earlier in the year. She introduced the session with a reference to synodal sharing, i.e. open sharing and attentive listening. This was an opportunity for those who supported migration and those who opposed it to speak out and listen to one another. There was an opportunity for questions and for people to express their concerns. Fr Pius was pleased with how the session had opened both eyes and ears.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time to unite all things in him, things of heaven and of earth. Eph 1:1-10. Pope Francis: In various ways migration affects whole populations in different parts of the world. Forced migration of families resulting from situations of war, persecution, poverty and injustice and marked by a journey that often puts lives at risk traumatizes people and destabilises families. The Church needs a programme addressed not only to families that migrate but also to those who remain behind. AL 46. Pope Leo: Social ties must be supported with networks and educational communities that accompany life choices and prevent uncertainty from giving rise to loneliness or addictions. MH 169*

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October 16. SEE. What church and why? "Why do people go to some churches and not others? Is it the quality of the preaching, the personality of the preacher, the type of worship with song and dance, the healing that they are seeking, or the message that speaks to them in their hearts?" This kind of debate was being held all over as new churches are blossoming and more traditional churches are finding they are losing members. "You could ask what attracted people to Jesus, because his message wasn't easy. People crowded round Jesus to hear his wisdom. The leaders then were jealous of him because he was popular and spoke in a way easy to understand about serious things

that helped them think, like telling them how valuable and loved they were to God. Where and how do we still feel like that?"

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *Jesus said, "are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Even the hairs of your head are numbered. You are of more value than many sparrows. From Luke 12:1-7. **Pope Francis:** Jesus took up the biblical faith in God, the Creator, emphasizing a fundamental truth: God is Father. In talking with his disciples would invite them to recognise the paternal relationship God has with all his creatures. With moving tenderness he would remind them that each of them is important in God's eyes. LS 96. **Pope Leo:** Through the Lord's closeness, the gift of peace enters into the world in a paradoxical way. It does so through the power to become children of God, and is awakened when we allow ourselves to be moved by the tears of the little ones, the fragility of the elderly, the silence of victims and the struggle of those who fight against the evil they do not wish to commit. In this wounded yet beloved flesh, the Father shows us the true humanity of a life fulfilled through openness and communion, which leads us to desire that his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

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October 17. SEE. Daswa, standing up for God. In 2015 here in South Africa our first martyr was recognised and beatified. Benedict Daswa was a family man, a teacher and proud to be a Christian speaking up for Christian values in public. His courage and opposition to witchcraft led to his murder, but such courage will win us favour in God's sight. There is very much persecution of Christians in the world today. Some do defend their faith but others are afraid to speak up for him in public: they can be forgiven because the danger is great. At the same time people should recognize the Spirit of God being active in the world slowly leading us closer to God and filling us with joy.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *When they bring you before the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. From Luke 12: 8-12. **Pope Francis:** The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. LS 201. **Pope Leo:** As a believer among believers I invite everyone to contemplate, in the face of the Son of God, the grandeur of humanity that shines a light also on the era of AI. In Christ we are called to cooperate in the work of creation, rather than be disinterested observers of technological processes that limit our freedom and responsibility. MH 233*

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October 18. Sunday 29 A. SEE. MISSION SUNDAY. Economic justice. Fr Teddy asked the people, "The deadline for submitting our tax returns is coming up soon. Have you submitted yours yet? Do you do it the easy way by asking SARS to help and give them all the correct information or use a tax consultant to see how you can find ways to cut down on what you might owe the government? Maybe it is to do with our attitude towards tax, towards what we owe the government and what we believe they owe us. Economic justice is important. One of the tasks of families is to build up society so we have to challenge ourselves, teach our children and do what is lawful and just. And because this is Mission Sunday there is an extra dimension too. We may be totally within the law from a civil perspective but in

terms of the law of love and concern for our neighbour what should we be doing in terms of giving to him, by way of giving to God."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture *Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesars and to God the things that are God's. From Matt 22:15-21. Pope Francis.* *There is a poverty that stifles the spirit of initiative of so many young people by keeping them from finding work. There is a poverty that dulls the sense of personal responsibility and leaves others to do the work while we go looking for favours. There is a poverty that poisons the wells of participation and allows little room for professionalism; in this way it demeans the merit of those who do work and are productive. To all these forms of poverty we must respond with a new vision of life and society. Message for 5th World Day of the Poor. Pope Leo:* *Work remains a fundamental dimension of the human experience, for not only is it a means of sustenance, but it is also a context for expression, relationships and contributing to the community. Therefore, the problems related to work extend beyond the income necessary for family survival. A society that guarantees employment to only a small fraction of the population, despite having a high level of technical development, risks exposing many to forced inactivity, a lack of responsibility and the absence of daily tasks and stimuli, resulting in human and cultural impoverishment. MH54*

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October 19. SEE. Covetousness. Would people still today go to a priest to say, "Father, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me?" Would they not rather go to a lawyer and take the matter to court? What message would someone expect to hear from the Church? Would it be the words of Jesus, "take heed and beware of all covetousness, for a man's life is much more than what you own." Luke's Jesus still speaks today against all envy and greed and Jesus warns still, "Don't be trapped into legal disputes with family and friends." Luke especially challenges rich people to share with the poor in their need.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *Jesus told a parable, "A rich man's land brought forth plentifully and he thought to himself, 'I will build larger barns and store my goods. I will say to my soul, 'take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, "Fool, this night your soul is required from you and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" Luke 12:13-21. Pope Francis:* *When people become self-centred and self-enclosed their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. A genuine sense of the common good disappears. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining, it can only lead to violence and mutual destruction. LS 204. Pope Leo: 180. The various areas just considered— the search for the truth in public life, education in the digital environment, the transformation of work, the fragility of families and new forms of slavery—are not isolated phenomena. Rather, they reflect a common underlying issue, namely that if technology becomes the ultimate criterion, the human person risks being reduced to data, a cog in a machine or a commodity. If, however, technology is integrated with a wise perspective, it can become an instrument of growth, justice and fraternity. From this perspective, the Social Doctrine of the Church calls for shared responsibility. MH180-1*

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October 20. SEE. Servants have always been a topic for general discussion. It seems that master-servant relationship have always been an issue, but this has certainly changed much in our country in recent years. Domestic servants are still part of family life but not as common as before. Babies are sent to a creche, later on to child care and

grandparents and siblings play a big part too. Jesus spoke about good or lazy servants but also good and hard masters, some who punished servants and slaves or rewarded good workers. Have our attitudes changed about being a servant or does everyone want to be a master? At the same time the spiritual concept of “servant leadership” is a growing value.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture: *Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning and be like men who are waiting for the master to come home from the marriage feast. Luke 12:35-38: **Pope Francis:** it is clear from the first pages of the Bible that work is an essential part of human dignity. Man is presented as a labourer who works the earth, harnesses the forces of nature and produces the bread of arduous toil in addition to cultivating his own talents. AL23. **Pope Leo:** The project for a civilization of love, therefore, must undertake the task of transforming imposed interdependence into a willed and chosen solidarity. This is the guiding principle for technological processes: it is not enough for artificial intelligence to make us more efficient or connected; it must also serve to build a universal human family, with shared rights and duties, where digital proximity becomes a real opportunity for encounter and mutual care. MH 187*

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October 21. SEE. Security. The community reflected, “How many security features are needed nowadays to even make us feel a little secure behind high walls with guards and panic buttons at the ready? How much impact does that way of life have on our quality of life too?” “Are we afraid to open our windows and doors and so become isolated and distrustful of others?” “Well I don't worry too much, but my children tell me I should protect myself and my belongings more.” “Ultimately what will we be held accountable for I wonder.” “Jesus expects faithfulness and trustworthiness in good servants for a reward rather than neglect and abuse deserving punishment.” “Don’t forget, he lived in violent times, and so do we.”

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *You must be ready for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Of everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required, and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more. Luke 12:39-48. **Pope Francis:** during the trial of murderers St Augustine argued, “we do not object to your depriving these wicked men of the freedom to commit further crimes. Our desire is rather that justice be satisfied without the taking of their lives or the maiming of their bodies in any part. Through coercive measures provided by the law they be turned from their irrational fury to the calmness of men of sound mind and from their evil deeds to some useful employment. FT 265. **Pope Leo:** When we acknowledge our fragility our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and with it, true peace. From Elderly message 2026*

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October 22. SEE. Managing the fire. Two sodality leaders shared with one another. “Do you ever feel as if there is too much good work to be achieved and not enough time?” “I’m sure we all do, but what is really important to achieve?” “I feel I have neglected my family because of my church work and that does worry me.” “Jesus knew that his time was limited and that his teaching, even of the fire of love, would cause division between members of families. Sadly I see that still today the Christian fire, joy and enthusiasm of some is disliked by others. In spite of that we should respond to our own calling, but continue to evaluate and discern. After all, fire can burn to destroy or to bring light.”

JUDGE. Reflect, share. Scripture. *"I came to cast fire upon the earth and would that it were already kindled. Do you think I have come to give peace on earth? No I tell you, but rather division. Luke 12:49-53: **Pope Francis:** Ecological conversion must be based on a spirituality that can motivate us, nourish and give meaning to our individual and communal activity for a more passionate concern for the protection of our world. LS 216. **Pope Leo:** The civilization of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture, but from the sum total of small and steadfast acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanization. For this reason, it is worthwhile pausing to reflect on some aspects of how we, each in our own way, can cooperate in building the civilization of love. Without presuming to exhaust this theme, I would like to propose five paths toward daily and public responsibility: the need to disarm words, building peace through justice, adopting the perspective of victims, cultivating a healthy realism and reviving dialogue and multilateralism.*

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October 23. SEE. Reading the Signs of the Times. The speaker addressed the meeting. "It isn't only economists, politicians and people like the Public Protector or investigative journalists who are engaged in reading the Signs of the Times. But It is just as well that they do, to bring matters to our attention. Certainly in all kinds of groups including families there are serious discussions about the state of the nation, of society and of family life. It is interesting however that most of the time we pass the buck and blame someone else, the government, the police, the church, teachers, etc. When and how will I take responsibility especially at this time as we are preparing for the local elections?"

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. Jesus says: We know when it will rain or be hot, and yet can't judge more important things well. Prayerful thought will reveal the best way and hidden meanings in our lives today. *You hypocrites, you know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" Luke 12: 54-59: **Pope Francis:** Pope Benedict asked us to recognise that the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. The social environment has also suffered damage. Both are ultimately due to the same evil: the notion that there are no indisputable truths to guide our lives and hence our human freedom appears limitless. LS6. **Pope Leo:** Over the centuries, technological development has significantly improved the living conditions of humanity. At the same time, each phase of progress has also revealed the ambiguity of tools that can cause harm when not oriented toward the good. Today, however, we find ourselves facing a new situation. The power and prevalence of emerging technologies are interwoven into the fabric of daily life, shaping decision-making processes and deeply affecting the collective imagination: "Never has humanity had such power over itself." [6] New technologies open up a horizon extending in directions that are imaginable but not yet fully predictable. This complicates the assessment of their potential impact and the long-term effects they may have on both the dignity of individuals and the common good. MH 4*

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October 24. SEE. Patience. Every year from the end of winter and the beginning of spring gardeners go out in force, pruning, digging up, tidying, replanting and fertilising and then patiently wait to see how fruitful their efforts have been. Will their garden win a prize or bear the best fruit? A hail storm or severe drought could threaten it all but nevertheless we keep hoping and trying. How long can patience hold out? Jesus said: God is like a gardener who will

spend time and care on his fruit trees; however there is nevertheless a limit to his patience and effort! Be conscious of the need to render fruit to God always.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *“Cut the fig tree down. Why should it use up the ground?” And the gardener replied, “Let it alone, sir this year also, till I dig about and put on manure. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.” Luke 13:1-9. Pope Francis: Patience takes root when I recognise that other people also have a right to live in this world, just as they are. It does not matter if they hold me back, unsettle my plans or annoy me by the way they act or think. AL 92. Pope Leo: In the past, it was largely up to the State to guide and direct innovation. Today, however, the main drivers of development are private, often transnational, parties that are endowed with resources and the capacity to intervene that surpass those of many Governments. Technological power thus takes on an unprecedented, predominantly “private” aspect, which makes it even more challenging to discern, govern and direct such power toward the common good. MH 4-5*

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October 25. SEE. Sunday 30 A. Fr Teddy said, “I don’t know whether to start from the beginning or the end today. Which comes first or leads to the other? The first reading is about caring for others in all kinds of situations and in the gospel Jesus answers the lawyer’s question by giving him the 2 great commandments, love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Does one start with looking at the reality of the life of the neighbour, a widow, orphan, poor person and act out of compassion and love. Does this attitude come from within, having been developed and nurtured in our own family relationships or do we care for others because it is a commandment to do so. You tell me.”

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself. Matt 22:34-40. Pope Francis: We Christians are very much aware that if the music of the Gospel ceases to resonate in our very being, we will lose the joy born of compassion, the tender love born of trust, the capacity for reconciliation that has its source in our knowledge that we have been forgiven and sent forth. FT 277. The response to the consultation on the family insisted on the need for training lay leaders who can assist in the pastoral care of families with the help of specialists. AL 204. Pope Leo: In order to build the civilization of love, we must engage in dialogue, for this is the primary means of coexistence between people and nations, and it is the alternative to open conflict. On the eve of the Second World War, Pius XII affirmed that nothing is lost with peace, whereas with war everything can be lost. He insisted that people must return to speaking with one another, because a sincere and persevering dialogue always opens up the possibility of an honorable solution. Indeed, dialogue is an ordinary part of human life and does not only concern relations between States. It involves acquiring an attitude that seeks to forge bonds of fraternity built on listening, an open demeanor, making time for each other and even wasting time together. For if we experience authentic encounters with others, with those who are different, strangers and migrants, it becomes much more difficult even to imagine war. MH219-20*

Daily Prayer for Mission Month October, Year of St Francis and upcoming Local Elections in SA.

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October 26. SEE. The Sabbath. Be honest”, the group leader said, “What does the Sabbath day mean to us nowadays?” “I sleep late.” “I enjoy going to my sodality meeting.” “I love the atmosphere in church even if it takes long.” “I feel guilty if I don’t go to Mass.” “We still go to church together and then go out for breakfast afterwards. It is

one of the joys of my week." "I have to work, no choice." "Is there really a choice about what we could do on Sundays? Do we talk about it as a family, or use it as a time to get away from one another?" Jesus' healing the woman on the Sabbath was much more than an act of kindness to an animal which was tied up, in pain, hungry, thirsty, but an act of love and recognition of a relationship.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *At that time Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity. Jesus laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made clean. The ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath. Jesus answered, "you hypocrite."* Luke 13:10-17. **Pope Francis:** *The family's communal journey of prayer culminates by sharing together in the Eucharist, especially in the context of the Sunday rest. Jesus knocks on the door to share with the Eucharistic supper. Spouses can seal anew the paschal covenant which united them and reflects the covenant which God sealed with mankind on the cross.* AL 318. **Pope Leo:** 234. *The spirituality that we need is a Eucharistic spirituality, that is, a spirituality of ecclesial unity in love. The Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery reveal God entering into our human condition and transforming it through the gift of himself. This gift remains present and active in the Eucharist, in which the Lord gives himself and gathers the Church together, so that his offering becomes the principle of unity and source of new life. It is from this communion that Christian solidarity also arises, since "union with Christ is also union with all those to whom he gives himself." As Saint Augustine explained to the new Christians of his local Church, the bread and wine on the altar are the sacrament of the unity of the faithful in Christ: "What is seen is a mere physical likeness; what is grasped bears spiritual fruit.* MH234

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October 27. SEE. Government and values. In today's world kings and kingdoms are largely out of fashion although some do remain and are actively supported by their people, while for others it is a matter of indifference. Kings are not elected, but it is hereditary. It can be a setting for national and/or family values to be planted or instilled and built upon. However there is also the possibility of abuse of power. When it comes to comparisons, as in the gospel, do forms of government other than democracy have an equally strong possibility of upholding positive values in such matters as the ownership and appropriation of land. That was the subject of a debate amongst three schools' matric classes. The outcome? Undecided. Kingdoms of man like the kingdom of God are somewhat of a mystery.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The kingdom of God is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measure of meal.* Luke 13:18-21. **SACBC Statement on Land.** August 2018. *Based on Biblical teaching and developed by the Social Teaching of the Church we affirm that the land is meant for all the peoples of the earth and is held by us in sacred trust. There is no absolute ownership of land. Human beings are always at the centre of our social and economic life. That is where we affirm the need for respect for human life and human dignity, a democracy at the service of the common good, transparent and incorruptible leadership, responsible dialogue, non-violence, respect for the Constitution, practical wisdom and rejection of populism.* **Pope Leo: Building the civilization of love.** *The construction of a world in a state of perpetual conflict is an evil and must be named for what it is. This way of portraying our current situation may seem bleak or pessimistic, yet I consider it necessary to do so. The Christian perspective, however, is not limited to denouncing evil. We view history in the light of the crucified and risen Lord, to whom the Father has given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Mt 28:18). We do not consider the present as a predetermined fate, but an opportunity for personal and collective conversion. Moreover, we believe in the power of the Kingdom, which grows from the tiny size of a mustard seed, which, once sown, sprouts and grows (cf. Mk 4:26-32). While the tumult of confusion is all around us, goodness grows silently from the earth. In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is 43:19).* MH210

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October 28. SEE. The Narrow Door. The matrices continued their discussion after the debate. "I don't think that Luke is very "merciful" in this gospel. If you don't buy into the values of this Kingdom of God, you're out in the cold." "Plus the only way in is through a narrow door. Is that because only a few would wish to enter or to make it difficult for people?" Their teacher shared an insight from her experience. "The small door into the church in Bethlehem's Manger Square is like that narrow door and I was told it was like that because the big main entrance was bricked up to prevent soldiers on horseback from riding in. Makes one think." Mr Bozzoli said, "Jesus taught that the wedding feast of Life or of the Kingdom, presided over by the Master of the House, is open to all peoples of all nations. We must seek diligently however to enter by the narrow door, which does indicate a degree of difficulty.

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *Strive to enter by the narrow door, for many I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Luke 13:22-30. Pope Francis: Whether believers or not we agree that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Every ecological approach needs to incorporate rights to the poor and the underprivileged. LS 93. Pope Leo: A closer analysis of history confirms that even in the darkest nights, the Lord raises up men and women who refuse to give up, who persevere in doing good, who protect the vulnerable and open pathways to reconciliation. The memory of the saints, righteous people and the oft-forgotten peacemakers, show us that grace does not magically eliminate conflict, but instead it inspires active resistance to evil and an astonishing creativity in doing good. Christians see the darkness and acknowledge it for what it is, yet they do not merely gaze upon it passively, for they know the light and understand that the darkness has not overcome it and cannot defeat it (cf. Jn 1:5). For this reason, even when suffering seems to have the last word, Christians serve the good and are sustained by a theological hope that gives reality both meaning and direction. MH211*

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October 29. SEE. "What is going on in the Middle East and Israel, Gaza and even in Jerusalem these days is really frightening. It does seem that Jews and Christians are on the way out and radical Jihadist Muslim are threatening to take over that part of the world. But some of us still hold on to the belief that this land is God's gift to us, where God is present in a special way. Jesus himself could foresee the destruction of Jerusalem in his day. What about today? Have we listened to the "prophets" of our time and are they genuinely persons of integrity?" A rabbi a priest and an imam shared their thoughts with one another. "We still dream of a "homeland" for our Family of God," Rabbi Jenkowitz shared. Fr Meindl responded, "Jesus was on a mission to heal & free people from all evil. His task was to end in Jerusalem. Are we Christians, really taking that mission of Jesus upon ourselves? The imam sighed and added, "we're not all terrorists. We are looking for a permanent home for the Palestinian people who have been part of this land too."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *O Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! Luke 13:31-35. Pope Francis: In my fraternal meeting with the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb we resolutely declared that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings, but result from political manipulation of religions. FT 285. Pope Leo: I invite everyone to cherish places and times where physical presence remains crucial, such as shared meals, Christian community gatherings, time spent with the lonely and serving the poor. These are signs of a humanity that continues to believe that every person's body is a dwelling place of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit. It is precisely this covenant between glory and fragility that becomes the criterion for evaluating the anthropological models offered by contemporary culture. MH239*

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October 30. SEE. Family meals. Such times can be successful, happy or disastrous, depending on the food and drink, who is present, what the mood is like and how the conversation is guided. Prudence asked, "Have you ever considered setting a place for Jesus at the dinner table? That might seem silly but it can be a visible sign of an invisible reality." "Like a sacrament you mean?" shouted Stuart who was always a bright spark. "In Luke's gospel there are up to 16 stories of how Jesus ate with anyone, formally and sometimes in large groups. But also in twos and threes & anywhere & everywhere – even with people who hated him!" 'Yes,' Dad added, "At meals he acted as a "Wisdom Figure," providing food for thought along with food for the body."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *One Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees and they were watching him. Jesus healed him and said, "Which of you having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well, will not immediately pull him out on a sabbath?" Luke 14:1-6. Pope Francis.* *When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, especially the poor and the neglected, it is a symbol, witness and participant in the Church's motherhood. Social love as a reflection of the Trinity is what unifies the spiritual meaning of the family and is mission to others. The family lives its spirituality by being at one and the same time a domestic church and a vital cell for transforming the world. AL 324. Pope Leo:* *The family is a primary social good. Founded on the enduring union between a man and a woman, it is the first environment in which all persons develop their potential, become aware of their dignity and learn the earliest forms of truth and goodness, internalizing the habits that prepare them for life in society. As the first natural society, endowed with foundational rights, the family is the fundamental and irreplaceable cell of every community organization. Consequently, when political projects and major economic decisions relegate the family to a marginal or secondary role, the authentic growth of the entire social body is compromised. The family, however, is a fragile social good immediately affected by the economic and technological transformations reshaping the nature of work. MH165-6*

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October 31. SEE. Loss and death. Her children were a bit shocked but her friends understood. After her husband died Mrs Jameson told them, "I see death in a different light now. I really don't want to carry on living alone for years and years." Mrs Adam encouraged her saying that in time she might also realise that there was a lot she could do for her family and for the bigger church family too. You've always been active, so just wait and see how you feel."

JUDGE. Reflect, share, Scripture. *For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. Phil 1:18-26. Pope Francis:* *At particular times we have to help the grieving person to realise that, after the loss of a loved one, we still have a mission to carry out, and that it does us no good to prolong the suffering, as if it were a form of tribute. Our loved ones, have no need of our suffering nor does it flatter them that we should ruin our lives. "Although the certainty of death saddens us, we are consoled by the promise of future immortality. For the life of those who believe in you, Lord, is not ended, but changed. "From the Liturgy of the Dead. Pope Leo:* *This is the blessing we implore from God; and the task that stands before us is that of being builders of communion, rather than architects of Babel. We are to be servants of the coming Kingdom, instead of lords of towers destined for ruin. With the heart of a shepherd and a father, I ask everyone to abandon the*

construction of yet another Tower of Babel and to join forces in building up the common good, so that humanity will never lose its beauty, and the world once again will come to recognize the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell. MH16

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