



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 10, Issue 10

October 3, 2021

## Dates to Remember

- October 3: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time—  
9:00AM Mass & FCFF  
Welcome Gathering
- October 4: Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi
- October 7: Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
- October 10: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time—  
9:00 AM Mass & FCFF  
Unit I Formation Session

## Food for Thought

*"Since you speak of peace, all the more you must have peace in your hearts. We have been called to heal wounds, to bring together what has fallen apart and to bring home those who have lost their way."*

— St. Francis of Assisi

Born in 1181 or 1182, Francis of Assisi, is the patron saint of Italy. As a young man he renounced his life of privilege and embraced a life of poverty to live the Gospel as Jesus taught. Recognized and known for his love of animals and all God's creation, Francis was also a man of peace who heard God's call to renew the Church spiritually through his preaching of the Good News. He attracted a group of followers and founded the Order of Friars Minor, known as the Franciscans. His feast day is October 4.

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mark 10: 2-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked,  
"Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

They were testing him.

He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?"

They replied,

"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce  
and dismiss her."

But Jesus told them,

"Because of the hardness of your hearts  
he wrote you this commandment.

But from the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female.*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife,*

*and the two shall become one flesh.*

*So they are no longer two but one flesh.*

Therefore what God has joined together,  
no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.

He said to them,

"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another

commits adultery against her;

and if she divorces her husband and marries another,

she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them,  
but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,

"Let the children come to me;

do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to  
such as these.

Amen, I say to you,

whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child  
will not enter it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them,

placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Sunday Gospel Connection: October 3, 2021

### Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

### Mark 10: 2-16

**Gospel Background:** Today we continue to read from the Gospel according to Mark. For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's reports of conversations between Jesus and his disciples. Recall that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses these private moments to teach his disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. Beginning with today's Gospel, Jesus returns to Judea, Jewish territory, and resumes his public ministry. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and he taught them, as was his custom. Immediately, the Pharisees approach Jesus to test him.



The Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in Deuteronomy 24:1-5. This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' disciples question him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to his disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of his teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished his teaching from the cultural norms of his time by applying his words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. When read together, however, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught his disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands his disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

**Family Connection:** Jesus' teaching about divorce and remarriage can be a challenging one for many people. The Church continues to uphold the strong and positive teaching of Jesus that God intends for a man and woman to make a lifelong commitment to one another in the Sacrament of Marriage. Many of us, however, know people whose marriage has not been a lifelong commitment. The example of Jesus teaches us that we are called to act with compassion and love in our relationships with all, and especially when people are hurting because of difficulties in their relationships. Most importantly, we remember that when marriages thrive, it is a sign of God's grace at work.

*(Continued on pg. 3)*

(Continued from pg. 2)

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to make a promise or a commitment to someone. Offer examples of promises that are fairly easy to keep. Read today's Gospel, Mark 10:2-16. Talk about examples of promises and commitments that might be more difficult to honor, like the marriage commitment that Jesus is asked about in this Gospel. Talk about how we need God to help us honor our commitment to love and care for each other. Jesus teaches that we should be like children before God, trusting God's promise to care for us and asking for his help to keep our commitments to love and care for others. Conclude by praying together that God will give his grace to us that we may honor our commitments to one another. Pray together Saint Ignatius of Loyola's prayer, the [Suscipe](#).

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/27th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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## October — Month of the Rosary

### Our Lady of the Rosary Feast Day — October 7



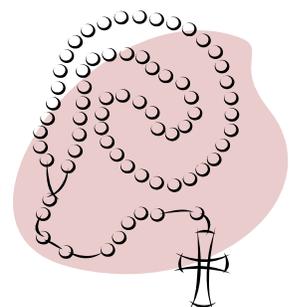
The Church traditionally dedicates the month of October to our Blessed Mother and devotion to the Rosary, and celebrates the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. This feast was first established by Pope Pius V in 1573, in thanksgiving for the victory at Lepanto, a major turning point in the ongoing conflict between Europe and the Ottoman Empire, when the Christians defeated the Turks after praying the rosary. In 1716, Pope Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church.

The rosary, as we know and pray it today, developed over several centuries and began during the Middle Ages as a way of praying the 150 Psalms found in the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament of the Bible. Eventually, the Our Father was prayed instead of the Psalms, and strings of beads were used to keep count of the prayers. Soon, meditations about Jesus and Mary were added to the prayer and the mysteries of the rosary developed, focusing on Jesus and Mary from the time of the Annunciation to the Resurrection and the Assumption. Further development led to the Hail Mary being prayed ten times (a decade) preceded by each meditation (mystery) and the Our Father. The rose, a symbol of joy, referred to Mary, and so the devotion became known as praying the rosary.

In 1569, Pope Pius V formally established the rosary as a form of prayer and standardized the 15 *Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious* mysteries we know today. In the centuries that followed, other popes devoted much attention to the rosary, and in 1974 Pope Paul VI issued a papal exhortation, *Marialis Cultus*, reminding the Church that the rosary is a “prayer with clearly Christological orientation.”

It was Pope John Paul II, however, who brought significant renewed attention to the rosary when he declared a “Year of the Rosary” from October 2002 through October 2003. He introduced the *Luminous* mysteries, known as the *mysteries of light* “to bring out fully the Christological depth of the rosary”, including mysteries that focus on “Christ’s public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion.” The name *Luminous* for this group of mysteries was chosen as a reference to Jesus speaking of his public ministry, “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5).

During this month of October, we encourage you to talk about and pray the rosary with your family. Focusing on the mysteries of the rosary helps your children to remember and understand the significant events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. For more information about praying the rosary with your children, go to <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/devotions/praying-the-rosary/>



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Dear Students and Families of Divine Savior,

Hello, this is Megan Mio, Director of the Global Mission Office and Coordinator of the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) for the Archdiocese of Chicago. As you know, my office encourages young people at our Catholic schools and parishes to continue to learn about, pray for and support kids all over the world. I am inspired by students like you who are models of missionary discipleship, especially during this time. You show other kids and adults how to be missionaries through prayer, sacrifice and action.

I recently received your donations from this past Lenten Season. You sent children of mission dioceses \$157.49! I know that was a sacrifice because of how the global pandemic has changed things this past year. Because of your gifts to MCA, children in Africa, Asia and Latin America will know the love of Jesus and find safety in the middle of a pandemic.

Keep mission in mind every day this new school year, especially as so many in our own community need the help of missionaries to spread God's Love.

Your Friend in Mission,

Dr. Megan Mio  
Director



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