

In Thee, O Lord, have I put my hope. Let me never be confounded.

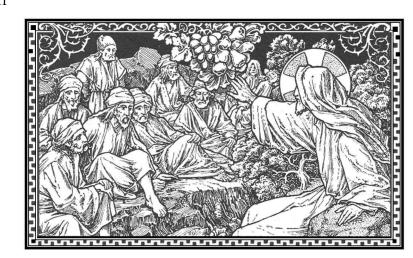
- St. Francis Xavier, S.J.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sound trees give good fruit. The tree is sound when the good sap flows through it. For the Christian, this is the life of Christ himself, personal holiness, and nothing else can take its place. We should never separate ourselves from him. "He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" [Jn. 15:5]. When we are close to Jesus we become effective. We learn how to be joyful, to be understanding, and to love. In short, we learn how to be good Christians.

The life of union with Christ necessarily transcends the limited sphere of the individual—and this to the benefit of others. This is the source of apostolic fruitfulness: "the apostolate, of whatever kind it be, must be an overflow of the interior life," of a life-giving union with Our Lord [St. Josemaría Escrivá, Friends of God, 239]. "This life of intimate union with Christ in the Church is maintained by the spiritual helps common to all the faithful, chiefly obtained by active participation in the liturgy. Laymen should make such a use of these helps that, while meeting their human obligations in the ordinary conditions of life, they do not separate their union with Christ from their ordinary lives, but through the very carrying out of their everyday tasks, whose performance is God's will for them, actually promote the growth of their union with him" [Vatican Council II, Apostolicam Actuositatem, 4]. Contact with Christ in Holy Communion, in the Mass (the true center of the Christian life), in personal prayer and

mortification which permit this contact with God, will show itself in the specific way we set about our daily work, in our dealings with others, whether they are believers or not, and in the way we carry out our civic and social duties.



Continued on back page.....

Asked and Answered: Reflection on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Though we be "but dust and ashes," we can presume to draw near and speak boldly to our Lord, as Abraham dares to do in this week's First Reading.

But even Abraham—the friend of God (see Isaiah 41:8), our father in the faith (see Romans 4:12) —did not know the intimacy that we know as children of Abraham, heirs of the blessings promised to his descendants (see Galatians 3:7, 29).

The mystery of prayer, as Jesus reveals to His disciples in this week's Gospel, is the living relationship of beloved sons and daughters with their heavenly Father. Our prayer is pure gift, made possible by the "good gift" of the Father—the Holy Spirit of His Son. It is the fruit of the New Covenant by which we are made children of God in Christ Jesus (see Galatians 4:6–7; Romans 8:15–16).

Through the Spirit given to us in Baptism, we can cry to Him as our Father—knowing that when we call He will answer.

Jesus teaches His disciples to persist in their prayer, as Abraham persisted in begging God's mercy for the innocent of Sodom and Gomorrah.

For the sake of the one just Man, Jesus, God spared the city of man from destruction (see Jeremiah 5:1; Isaiah 53), "obliterating the bond against us," as Paul says in this week's Epistle.

On the Cross, Jesus bore the guilt of us all. He canceled the debt we owed to God, the death we deserved to die for our transgressions. We pray as ones who have been visited in our affliction and saved

from our enemies, as ones who have been spared.

We pray always a prayer of thanksgiving, which is the literal meaning of "Eucharist." We have realized the promise of this week's Psalm: we worship in His holy temple, in the presence of angels, hallowing His name.

In confidence we ask, knowing that we will receive, that He will bring to completion what He has done for us—raising us from the dead, bringing us to everlasting life along with Him.



Scott Hahn

The parish staff knows of the following who are ill, in retired living accommodations, etc. **If you are aware of others, please let Father or the parish office know:** Bella Mally, Jane Soars, Susan Fisher, Gerri Allen, Kathy McCarthy, Ken Keyes, Mildred Crawford, and the residents of Franklin Hills Care Center and Cherrywood Place.

Prayers for the infirm and homebound are a work of mercy.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Saturday

3pm – Confessions (**St. Francis Xavier**) 4pm – Vigil Mass (**St. Francis Xavier**)

Sunday

7:30am – Holy Mass, (St. Francis Xavier)
9:00am – Holy Mass (St. Patrick)
11:00am – Holy Mass, (St. Francis Xavier)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the parish office by email to arrange a baptism, marriage, or funeral, or to request a certificate.

To request the offering of the Holy Mass for your intention, please email the office or leave your intention in the Sunday collection basket.

St. Francis Xavier can be found online at sfxspokane.org or at facebook.com/sfxspokane

Our Mailing Address is: P.O. Box 7179, Spokane, WA, 99207

SFX DIRECTORY

Office Telephone: (509) 487-6363 Sacramental Emergencies: (509) 866-6098

Father Semple: pastor@sfxspokane.org

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Office Hours.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9AM-12PM

THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

MONDAY, JULY 28TH

5:30pm Mass Georgia Schrempp

TUESDAY, JULY 29TH

8:00am Mass Daniel McLeod

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass Colleen Inglish

THURSDAY, JULY 31TH

8:00am Mass Charlotte Hart

FRIDAY, AUGUSR 1ST

5:30pm Mass First Friday Devotion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Mass Pro Populo

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD

7:30 am, Mass Pro Populo

11:00 am, Mass Pro Populo



Seven Sisters Apostolate

The parish is looking for volunteers who would be interested in participating in the "Seven Sisters Apostolate." This Apostolate seeks to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed every day for the intention of the parish priest.

The Apostolate is for women, and involves a commitment of praying in the church one day a week. If you are interested, please contact Patty Parra at **(509)** 362-8646

Women of St Francis Xavier

In an effort to cultivate more community at St Francis Xavier, the women of the parish have formed the group: the "Women of St X".

All women - retired, widowed, single and married - are invited to join.

Activities and volunteer possibilities include:

- Contributing to food prep for after mass socials during the warm months
 - ° Organizing parish picnics + potlucks
- Organizing + providing food for catechesis nights for children and adults
 - ° Formation of Bible studies + small groups
 - Corporal works of mercy for the sick and elderlyOther misc. needs of the parish

If you are interested in taking an active role in creating a vibrant parish community, please email women.of.st.x@gmail.com.



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Under our Organ Fundraiser page you will find descriptions and recordings of all the Ranks in the Organ awaiting adoption.

Continued from the Cover...

The sap is not seen, but the fruit certainly is. Christ should be seen in us in the way we behave, in our joy and serenity in the presence of sorrow and difficulties, in our readiness to forgive others. He will be seen in the demanding way we fulfill our duties and in our exemplary sobriety in making use of material goods; in our sincere gratitude for the help we are offered in the little things of daily life. If we neglect this intimate union with God our apostolic effectiveness will be reduced to nothing in the lives of the people we habitually come into contact with. The fruits will become bitter, and unworthy of being laid before God.

If we neglect personal piety, real intimacy with God, we shall not perform the deeds God expects from every Christian. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. If our heart is not in God how can we hand on the words and the life that come from him?

Commentary from In Conversation With God by Fr. Francis Fernandez-Carvajal.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest July 31st

St. Ignatius was born of a noble family in 1491, in the Castle of Loyola in Giupuscoa, Spain. Reared in the Court of Ferdinand V of Aragon, the husband of Isabella of Castile, he entered the army and distinguished himself by his valor. He was wounded at the siege of Pamplona, in a war between Charles V and Francis I, King of France. During his convalescence he read the "Lives of the Saints," which effected his conversion from worldliness to piety. Henceforth, his life belonged entirely to God.

After a general confession in the monastery of Monserrat, the Saint spent ten months in the solitude of Manresa, where he composed his Spiritual Exercises, and then made a pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land. On his return to Spain he began his studies, and in 1528 he went to Paris to continue them. Here his virtue and wisdom gained him a few companions, and these became the nucleus of the Society of Jesus. At Montmarte they vowed to go to Palestine, or to ofer themselves to the Pope to be employed in the service of God in some other manner. Receiving ordination at Venice together with his companions, St. Ignatius went to Rome where he was graciously received by Pope Paul III.

In 1540, Pope Paul III approved the Society and it soon made rapid progress, spreading to India in the East and to Brazil in the West. St. Ignatius continued to reside in Rome, employed in consolidating and governing his Society. There he became the friend of St. Philip Neri. He was General of the Society more than fifteen years. He died peacefully on July 31, 1556, and was canonized in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

PRAYER: God, You raised up St. Ignatius in Your Church for the greater glory of Your Name. Grant that we may labor on earth with his help and after his example and merit to be crowned with him in heaven. **Amen.**



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