

54th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY
“That you may tell your children and grandchildren” (Ex 10:2)
Life becomes history

Introduction

Today the Church celebrates the 54th World Communication Day, with the theme “That you may tell your children and grandchildren” (Ex 10:2). *Life becomes history*. In his message, Pope Francis gives us a strong appeal to each of us to enhance and use this valuable tool of narration, which stems from the origin of our civilization and our faith. Today there is a great need to narrate and re-narrate stories that can bring to light the truth, good stories: stories that build, stories that help to find the roots and strength to nourish and safeguard humanity.

Let us remember with great gratitude this precious heritage of narration that we received through our faith and life. Let us strive to re-propose it with new vigor and responsibility through a more creative and suitable narration apt for our times. We have various treasures to tell and narrate: the stories of the Holy Scriptures, the stories of the saints and martyrs, the stories of all those who have been able to read the soul of man and bring to light its beauty, and the stories of daily life, with all the challenges and beauty around.

Prayer of the faithful

Celebrant:

God, source of narration, you are present in our daily lives in the Word and in your works, that is being proclaimed to us and to each other. You call us to communicate your love, mercy and presence in our lives. To you, O Father, we submit our prayers with the assurance that Christ and the Holy Spirit are present with us in our journey.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader

We pray for our Pope Francis and all bishops and priests that their teachings and guidelines may offer a deeper commitment to the central concerns of humanity such as justice, peace, mercy, love and forgiveness. Lord, help your servants to build stories that serve to strengthen social bonds, and keep alive the divine, human and cultural fabric of our lives. *Let us pray*

Reader

We pray for those involved in the communication industry: We pray for the novelists, film makers, lyricists, news editors and social media content creators that they may tell stories that build up humanity, stories that help us discover our true identities, stories that reveal our interconnectedness, that we are members one of another. *Let us pray*

Reader

We pray for the preachers of the Word of God that they may not fall a prey to the temptation of self-advertisement in their preaching but instead be true witnesses of their faith in true God and bear humble witness to what Spirit reveals to them.
Let us pray

Reader

We pray for parents and elders in the families: that learning from the school of Mary who knit together in her womb the humanity of God, they may knit the family together in the love of God through their stories of lived experiences of your love and mercy. *Let us pray*

Reader

We pray for the gift of patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose hope; to identify and shun fake stories, stories that glorify narcissism, violence and falsehood; destructive and provocative stories that destroy the fragile thread that binds us together as a society. *Let us pray*

Reader

We pray for the community of faith: that we become good listeners of the Word of God, the story of God's love for us and his presence amidst us. We pray that God may give us the wisdom to allow that story to transform our lives and liberate us from falsehood.

Celebrant:

God our father, show your gaze of compassionate love on us. We have recounted to you the stories that we live and the situations that fill our lives. Help us to experience you and narrate your magnificence in our daily lives. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

(Prayer after Communion/ at the end)

Prayer to Mary

*O Mary, woman and mother,
you wove the divine Word in your womb,
you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God.
Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and
make your own the stories that no one wants to hear.
Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history.
Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory.
By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied.
Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too.
Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future.
And show us the way to live them together.*

- Pope Francis

How can we realize this call to narration?
(Activities in the family or in a group)

1. Narrate to your family experiences of faith and love, experiences of the challenges and the magnificence of God.
2. Share to a friend some story from the bible, some life of the Saints/Martyrs
3. Through the means of social communication, write stories that can inspire and strengthen our faith and humanity.
4. Ask grandparents and elders to tell about their experiences of faith and life
5. Have a discussion / sharing on the stories narrated in our day-to-day life and how to distinguish false stories and true stories
6. Make a small sketch that can symbolically tell your story or your identity before God
7. Identify the great narrators of life in today's world and the themes and characteristics of their stories.
8. God the Creator has offered us this wonderful creation - plants, animals, birds etc. and narrates through them. Choose an aspect and narrate it in your family or group.
9. Have a discussion to identify and distinguish the true and good news in newspapers, television and radio channels.
10. How many stories from the Holy Scriptures do you know and know how to narrate, and how many have you narrated till date?
11. Watch a biblical/spiritual/thematic film and discuss as a family the aspects of narration that touched you.
12. As a family, find time to get to know your family tree. You will surely come across real heroes of your family itself with interesting stories.
13. Share with your family/group/friends real life stories that had a deep impact during this Covid 19 crisis.
14. After listening to the real life stories of the current situation in the light of faith, can your narration translate into some concrete charitable actions in alleviating the misery and pain around.
15. Choose and narrate five stories of faith and life to people, sharing with them your experience of faith.
16. In your institution (parish, school, university) create a space or provide a platform weekly to narrate stories of faith and life that can truly inspire and empower.