



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 11, 2026

Yes or No?

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Confronted by a social obligation I would prefer to avoid, I frequently find myself musing that the timing is right for me to break a leg or get the flu. Yet more often than not, once I go, I find myself enjoying the gathering. Not all invitations are exciting or even desirable, but many become the building blocks of our lives.

When the parable of Jesus tells of an invitation to come to a wedding feast, it's really a story of our invitation to the kingdom of heaven, where, if we accept,

we will dwell in the divine presence and enjoy the peace, joy, and love of God. Heaven is not only *where* we are but also *how* we are. It's an invitation to deeper and richer life—a taste of heaven, even in this life.

So it's good to consider going where we'd rather not go. It's not simply about social gatherings, though a social gathering may be the event where you meet the person you fall in love with. It also may mean going for counseling when that may be a bit scary, or confronting one's addiction, or moving to a new city, or accepting serious and lifelong illness, or saying yes to having a child with special needs, or not getting the job you hoped for. Saying yes to what life brings may be the wedding garment that enriches our lives. It may be saying yes to God. †



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A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In the face of...the tragic situations of injustice, violence, and suffering that mark our time, it is essential that our faith be alert, attentive, and prophetic. It should likewise open our eyes to the darkness of the world and bring to others the light of the gospel through our commitment to peace, justice, and solidarity.

Angelus, Rome, March 15, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When have I gone somewhere I didn't want to go?
- How was my life enriched by it?

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 25:6–10a

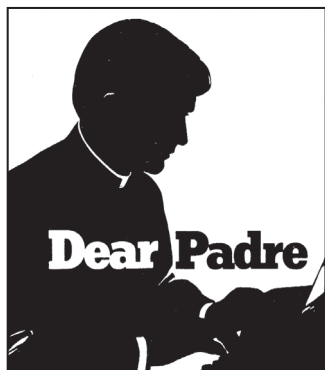
The LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples / A feast of rich food and choice wines.

Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20

I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.... My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 22:1–14 or 22:1–10

[Jesus said,] "Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find."



Dear Padre,
In the Creed, we say we believe in the resurrection of the body. So, why is it all right to be cremated?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* clearly states what many find confusing: “It is very commonly accepted that the life of the human person continues in a spiritual fashion after death. But how can we believe that this body, so clearly mortal, could rise to everlasting life?” (CCC 996). The *Catechism* goes on to address several questions: “What is rising? Who will rise? How? When?” (CCC 997–1001). In essence, “Christ ‘will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body,’ into a ‘spiritual body’” (CCC 999). The disposition or condition of the physical body at death will not affect the spiritual body that is raised. Cremation, decomposition, mutilation or dismemberment by violence, or the donation of one’s body to science—deemed “a noble and meritorious act...to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity” (CCC 2296)—does not prevent the resurrection of our glorified body. It is only when the act of cremation appears to be a public denial of faith in the resurrection or the sacredness of the body that the practice is forbidden. †

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Why Me? Scriptural Answers to Suffering and Its Meaning” by Daniel J. Harrington, SJ

Suffering is a universal human experience. Yet when we suffer, we often feel isolated and alienated. The Old Testament lament psalms can help suffering persons break free of their loneliness.... The biblical laments can help sufferers recognize they are not alone but stand in a long tradition of suffering people. These psalms enable sufferers to address God directly, to shake off their personal and religious inhibitions, and to express their feelings of pain, fear, and confusion. Also, the laments can help sufferers articulate the questions that their pain raises: *Why am I suffering? Does it have any meaning? Where is God?...* They remind us that those who suffer are honored members of our community of faith.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



Holy God, help us to recognize your invitation in every task set before us, your face in every person we meet. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 12–17

Monday, Weekday: Gal 4:22–24, 26–27, 31—5:1 / Lk 11:29–32

Tuesday, Weekday: Gal 5:1–6 / Lk 11:37–41

Wednesday, Weekday: Gal 5:18–25 / Lk 11:42–46

Thursday, St. Teresa of Jesus: Eph 1:1–10 / Lk 11:47–54

Friday, Weekday: Eph 1:11–14 / Lk 12:1–7

Saturday, St. Ignatius of Antioch: Eph 1:15–23 / Lk 12:8–12



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