Bringing Home the Word

Twenty–ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 18, 2026

Night Goggles?

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

It was a gathering of longtime friends. The conversation drifted from the shore of one topic to another like leaves bouncing down a river. Eventually the talk bumped up against politics. Because we tended to think alike, it turned to smashing and bashing the opposition—all until someone asked, "Can you name the wisdom in the others?" "There isn't any," came someone's swift reply. "But surely there is," the questioner persisted. "No one has all the wisdom, and everyone has some of the wisdom." What followed was dumbfounded silence. Truth can do that.

We live in a time when the wisdom on the street, over our backyard fence, and at the coffee pot at work all tend to skew "You're only OK if you think the way I do." It's a hard-core bias that surrounds not only politics but also raising children, what constitutes a clean house, and the best way to boil spaghetti. Nothing remains untouched.

When Jesus was challenged about whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar, his response was, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:21b). In other words, it's OK to pay taxes to Caesar because even Caesar belongs to God. Everything and everyone does. God's wisdom finds a home everywhere.

Having faith is a bit like wearing night goggles. We begin to see what no one else sees, even though it may be a bit blurry, and what we see is the hand of God at work everywhere, even in the opposition. ✝

What we see is the hand of God at work everywhere.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 45:1, 4–6

I am the Lord, there is no other.

1 Thessalonians 1:1–5b

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers.

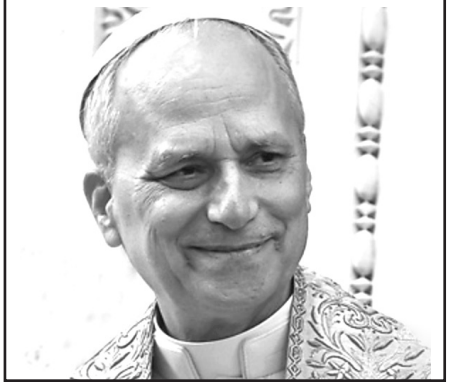
Matthew 22:15–21

[Jesus asked,] "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Today let us ask Mary, Mother of the Church, to be able to serve, with Jesus and like Jesus, those men and women thirsting for truth and justice. This is not the time for opposition between one church and another, between "us" and "them"—those who worship God seek to be men and women of peace, who worship him in Spirit and in truth.

Angelus, Rome, March 8, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Can I find some truth in another's opinion?
- Can I see why they might disagree with me?

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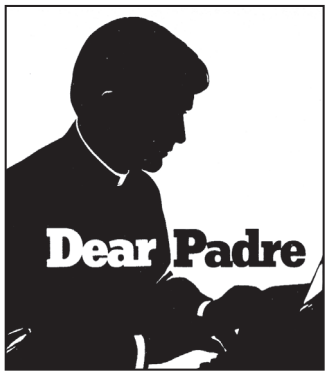

Dear Padre,

What does it mean when it says we're in Cycle A or B or C? Or Years I and II?

When the bishops of the Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 called for a revision of our liturgy, they asked that "The treasures of the Bible…be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way, a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 51).

At Sunday Masses, the Scriptures are divided up over three years (called Years A, B, and C). At these Masses, the gospel is the primary reading. The first reading, taken from the Old Testament, and the responsorial psalm touch upon the same theme as the gospel. In the Easter season, the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. The second reading follows consecutive passages from the letters of Paul or the other apostles, independent of the other readings.

At weekday Masses, most of the Bible is read over a period of two years. Odd-numbered years are Year I, and even-numbered years are Year II.

All of this should help us open those treasures that the Church says are ours in the Scriptures. ✝

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / 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 "Sacred Art: Epiphanies of Beauty" by David Brinker

Artists may be the most underappreciated theologians and interpreters of Scripture. Picture an event from the Bible—perhaps the Nativity or David challenging Goliath or St. Paul's conversion experience—whatever your mind's eye paints has likely been shaped by an artist's imagination. Art helps to fill in the gaps in the biblical narratives, bringing sparsely detailed stories to life in vivid detail. From the earliest days of the Church, artistic expression has served as a dynamic means of conveying, interpreting, and experiencing the Catholic 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.

PRAYER

God of every nation, may all that we do bear in mind the needs of others everywhere, especially those who are struggling. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 19–24

Monday, Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues: Eph 2:1–10 / Lk 12:13–21

Tuesday, Weekday: Eph 2:12–22 / Lk 12:35–38

Wednesday, Weekday: Eph 3:2–12 / Lk 12:39–48

Thursday, Weekday: Eph 3:14–21 / Lk 12:49–53

Friday, Weekday: Eph 4:1–6 / Lk 12:54–59

Saturday, Weekday: Eph 4:7–16 / Lk 13:1–9

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