

Bringing Home the Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)
November 22, 2026

Pay Attention to Your Instincts

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Invite Marty into your home, and the first thing he'll ask is whether you have cats. Marty is allergic to cats—big time—even if they have been confined to another room. His eyes turn red. He sneezes. He coughs and wheezes like an old-time Model T. Cats are his nemesis. It is ironic that Marty has befriended a stray cat from his neighborhood. Though he never pets the kitty or allows him into his home, each day he feeds the cat and puts milk out on the deck outside his living room. And if the cat fails to come around, Marty worries about him.

There is something instinctive in us that moves us to care for the underdog, even if it's a cat. The Sunday gospel this week suggests that the innate desire to care for the weakest among us is a godly instinct. It's where we meet God, and we need to pay attention to it simply because it's how we come to a sense of God in our lives.

We all search for meaning, looking for it every day in the hidden corners of our lives and in the free moments of our busyness. Sometimes we find it, and sometimes we limp back home at the end of the day. More often than not, it's when our day has been brushed with the color of caring for someone else that we feel good about that day. It's a godly instinct that's not to be ignored. ✝



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Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

For thus says the Lord God: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them.

1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

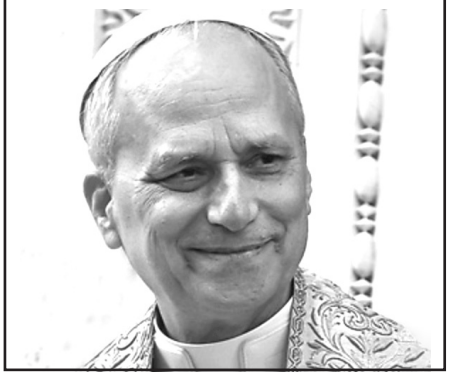
Matthew 25:31–46

"Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Artificial intelligence now demands to be "disarmed," freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion, and death. Like nuclear energy, it must be at the service of all and of the common good. Decisions about technology must never be separated from conscience and responsibility.

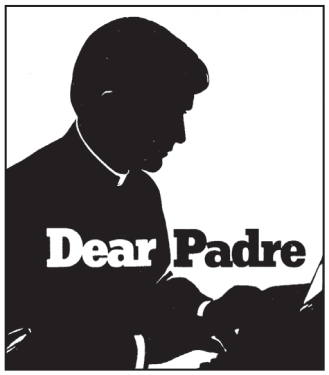
ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 25, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I care about an "underdog"?
- Does caring for someone else improve how I feel about my day?

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Dear Padre,
In the liturgy, how do a solemnity, a feast day, and a memorial differ?

Celebrations in the Church calendar are named according to their rank or importance. Solemnity is the highest rank. The next rank is feast, celebrating an event in the life of Christ, Mary, the apostles, martyrs, and a few other important saints.

Solemnities are usually celebrated by the whole Church, but celebrations may be made solemnities for local churches. For instance, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a solemnity in Mexico and a feast in the United States.

A memorial commemorates the day a saint died. An obligatory memorial is celebrated by every church in a diocese or country. The memorial of Redemptorist St. John Neumann, for example, is obligatory in the United States because of his historical contribution to the American Church as the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. It's also obligatory in Redemptorist churches around the world.

Optional memorials are saints' days that an individual priest can celebrate Monday through Saturday if he chooses. For example, Jesuit St. Robert Bellarmine's memorial is obligatory in Jesuit churches or in churches named for him, but it's optional everywhere else.

During Ordinary Time, solemnities that fall on Sunday are celebrated, but feasts and memorials that fall on Sunday are not. During Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, some solemnities that fall on Sunday are transferred to a weekday because of the importance of these seasons. ✝

Fr. Patrick Keyes, 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 *Biblical Wisdom for Marriage: Roadmap for a Lifetime of Love* by Dr. Manuel and Karee Santos

Two or three generations ago, lifelong married love was commonplace. Now it may seem to some to be barely possible. Although Jesus described marriage as an unbreakable bond planned by the Creator from the beginning of time (see Matthew 19:3–8), many of us struggle to make married love last.

Fortunately, we don't have to rely solely on our own strength or cleverness. Jesus promised that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

A sacramental marriage gathers us together in God's name, and he will not fail to help us. He gives us grace through the sacraments and wisdom through the Scriptures.

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 the universe, we pray for the coming of the kingdom of your Son in all places and in the hearts of every human being. We pray always in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 23–28

Monday, Weekday, Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5 / Lk 21:1–4

Tuesday, St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions, Rv 14:14–19 / Lk 21:5–11

Wednesday, Weekday, Rv 15:1–4 / Lk 21:12–19

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day (USA), Sir 50:22–24 / 1 Cor 1:3–9 / Lk 17:11–19

Friday, Weekday, Rv 20:1–4, 11—21:2 / Lk 21:29–33

Saturday, Weekday, Rv 22:1–7 / Lk 21:34–36

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