Bringing Home the Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 25, 2026

The Other Side of Love

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Dennis is one of the local street people who lives around the parish where I live. He is usually pleasant and courteous and wants to do things right, though he also struggles with his own set of demons. For the most part, Dennis seems to be finding his way through the mazes of life, as people do in their own fashion. In some ways, the parishioners have become a family for Dennis, or at least a part of the family scattered about the neighborhood. Frequently he will be gone for a time, and we will wonder what happened to Dennis, only to find him drifting back among us.

These days Dennis is angry with us. For whatever reason, Dennis brought his assembled belongings and took up residence on our garage roof. The roof is flat and has a two-foot-high wall around the edge, a place that affords a bit of shelter from the wind. Soon, however, the parish came up with a list of reasons why it would be best if Dennis did not live on our garage roof—safety, security, and insurance among them. So Dennis was asked to move on, and that's why Dennis is angry with us.

The parish staff tries to be sensitive and caring about the street people. They try to let them make their own way when that is what they want to do. Yet at other times the staff needs to do what is best for everyone involved in the parish. It's not always easy to know how to love someone. ✝

It's not always easy to know how to love.

Sunday Readings

Exodus 22:20–26

You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.

1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord.

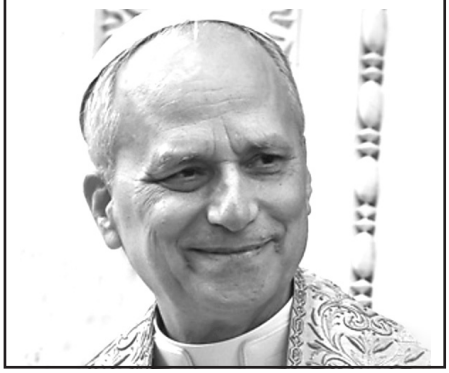
Matthew 22:34–40

[Jesus said,] "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Health cannot be a luxury for the few.… Universal health coverage is not merely a technical goal to be achieved; it is primarily a moral imperative for societies that wish to call themselves just. Healthcare must be accessible to the most vulnerable, then, not only because their dignity requires it but also to prevent injustice from becoming a cause of conflict.

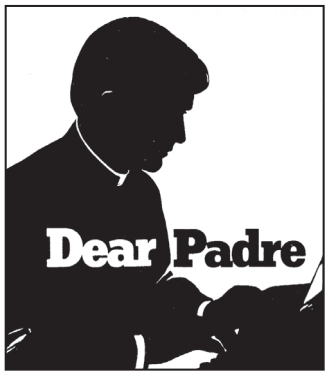
Address to conference participants, Rome, March 19, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I ever wonder how best to show love?
- Can I be more sensitive to others?

© 2026 Liguori Publications, a Ministry of the Redemptorists | Liguori.org



Dear Padre,
I occasionally need to be reminded why I should remain Catholic. Can you help?

Whether our faith was inherited at birth or adopted later, it's healthy to periodically reexamine our beliefs and practices with the intent to grow closer to God. Saint Paul uses the metaphor of moving beyond milk to solid food to explain our maturing faith. (See Hebrews 5:12–14). Questions or doubts are not necessarily signs of crisis or disloyalty to God or the Church. Indeed, it's often when we challenge pat answers that God moves us to a deeper meaning and stronger relationship—that is, if we're steadfast on the path to holiness. People remain Catholic for numerous reasons, including:

- the Church's belief in God's goodness to us through the sacraments;
- a 2,000-year tradition of living the gospel in a universal, multicultural community of faith;
- a proven track record as an agent for personal and spiritual growth and social transformation.

When Church members' behavior is contrary to Christ's mission, and our confidence to remain is tested, it's good to recall that the Church is divinely fortified and humanly composed. People remain Catholic because the Church exists to bring us into full communion with God, through Christ, by working toward the fullness of the kingdom. "The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity,' because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one people of God, form one body of Christ, and be built into one temple of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 776). ✝

Fr. Byron Miller, 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 "Building a Christ-centered Family" by Mike and Alicia Hernon

The grace to be a parent flows from the sacrament of matrimony, and that sacrament needs to be renewed and refreshed continually. So if you want to build a life of faith in your home, love God first. Second, love your spouse. Third, love your children. Once we lay the foundation of love and relationships in our home, how can we teach and experience the faith with our children in a practical way? As Catholics, we are blessed to have many things we can do to create "Catholic muscle memory." Habits, routines, rituals, and traditions that we establish in childhood can keep children connected to the family and to the faith even as they enter adulthood.

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

All-embracing God, teach us to welcome the stranger, to speak for the voiceless, to share generously, to love as you love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 26—31

Monday, Weekday: Eph 4:32—5:8 / Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday, Weekday: Eph 5:21–33 / Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday, Sts. Simon and Jude: Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Thursday, Weekday: Eph 6:10–20 / Lk 13:31–35

Friday, Weekday: Phil 1:1–11 / Lk 14:1–6

Saturday, Weekday: Phil 1:18b–26 / Lk 14:1, 7–11

Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry
Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted.

© 2026 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, revised edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.