



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)
April 26, 2026

Saved by Love, Not by Suffering

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

I'm not sure there is any value in suffering in and of itself. Nor do I think God wants us to suffer. That would make him sadistic. Nor is it, then, Jesus' suffering and death that saves us, but rather his love even to the point of suffering and death that saves us. It is his love that reveals the greatness of God's love for us that is so unbelievable. The basis of our faith is Jesus' trust in God, who would bring about life even through death. We also hear the wisdom of St. Peter today: "If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a

grace before God" (1 Peter 2:20). Such is the shepherd's voice that teaches us and leads us.

Does anyone ever choose to suffer for doing what is good? Yes. Every day. Spouses become caregivers for husbands or wives robbed of their memories. Each day, people go to jobs that are pure drudgery, and they do so because they love their families. Some choose to live simply, to be countercultural in a consumer society. Others help their community by living in neighborhoods many avoid. Some parents willingly postpone a career in order to be present to their growing family. Teachers often go beyond expectations for students who need extra help. It is never the suffering of these people that captures and reflects the image of Jesus, but the love even to the point of suffering. †

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter [said] to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:20b-25

For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said,] "The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."



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A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Is my faith stronger when I'm suffering or when life is easy?
- Who has suffered for me? Have I thanked them?



A Disarmed and Disarming Peace

Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP

“This is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming.” With these words, charged with evangelical power, Pope Leo XIV summed up in his first *Urbi et Orbi* blessing the very core of the Christian message: the peace brought by the Lord is not imposed by force or fear, and it is not sustained by power. It is an unarmed peace because it springs from a love that gives itself without defending itself, and it is disarming because it tears down walls and neutralizes hatred.

What Pope Leo XIV has sought to say—and what he has expressed more by actions than by words—is that there is no Church without communion, no communion without conversion, and no conversion without peace. And true peace disarms us, transforms us, and reveals a kingdom not of this world—yet already dwelling within us.

Leo XIV was unequivocal in his first *Regina Caeli* on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 11, 2025, saying, “I consider it a gift from God that the first Sunday of my service as bishop of

Rome is Good Shepherd Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Easter.” He continued after the *Regina Caeli*: “In today’s dramatic scenario of a piecemeal third world war, as Pope Francis stated many times, I too address the world’s leaders, repeating the ever-timely appeal: ‘Never again war!’”

He could not have said this more clearly, nor at a more fitting moment. The following day, at his first meeting with representatives of the media, Leo XIV reinforced this message, saying, “Peace begins with each one of us—with the way we look at others, the way we listen to others, the way we speak about others. And in this sense, the way we communicate is fundamentally important: we must say ‘no’ to the war of words and images. We must reject the paradigm of war.” †

The peace brought by the Lord is not imposed by force or fear.

From *Pope Leo XIV: Restless Heart, Faithful Shepherd* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP, Liguori Publications (829000). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “*Humility Is Still a Virtue*” by Christopher M. Bellitto

While humility seems to be in short supply today, there’s plenty of “me-ism.” Humility might serve as an alternative to the disease of narcissism that’s infected us. We live in a world not of “I’m right and you’re wrong,” but of “I’m right and you’re bad.” At its worst, this attitude can deny another person’s or group’s right to an opinion or a place at the table. This is the self-absorbed and divisive product of reckless partisanship, not a well-informed sense of partnership. Humility can be our path back to courtesy, respect, and good manners in face-to-face exchanges and especially on social media.

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.



Lord Jesus, when we fail to hear your word or listen to your Spirit within us, please open our minds and hearts to your voice, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 27—May 2

Monday, Easter Weekday: Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:11–18

Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday, St. Catherine of Siena: Acts 12:24—13:5a / Jn 12:44–50

Thursday, Easter Weekday: Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

Friday, Easter Weekday: Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

Saturday, St. Athanasius: Acts 13:44–52 / Jn 14:7–14



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