



# Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
June 28, 2026

## The Statue of Hospitality

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Approximately twelve score and seven years ago, “our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” as Abraham Lincoln once reminded us. This week, we as a nation once again mark that new beginning, we who have inherited its blessings as a gift generously bestowed upon us by those who have gone before us, a gift not deserved but nevertheless ours, a gift we do not own yet pass on to generations to come, a gift we eagerly share.

Hospitality is something to extend to those who come to our doors; it is also

something we can extend to those who come to our shores. It seems worthwhile, then, especially this week and amid so many disagreements over immigration, to revisit the words inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty, written by the poet Emma Lazarus and etched into our psyche as a nation. These words serve as a vision of who we are, perhaps as much as our Constitution does.

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me;

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

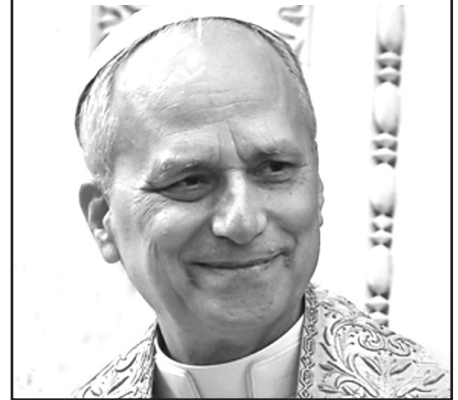
In today’s reading, the woman at Shunem offered Elisha the prophet hospitality, and she was blessed. Jesus promised that those who offer the hospitality of a cup of cold water will be blessed. Surely, then, any nation that welcomes others in hospitality will be blessed as well. †

**Jesus promised that those who offer hospitality will be blessed.**

### A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others...with their needs and troubles, to touch our hearts. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers. In the end, love prevails, and it proves more powerful than evil and death.

HOMILY, CASTEL GANDOLFO,  
JULY 13, 2025



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Am I hospitable?
- Is it easy or difficult for me to welcome others into my world?

## Sunday Readings

**2 Kings 4:8–11, 14–16a**

Elisha promised, “This time next year you will be cradling a baby son.”

**Romans 6:3–4, 8–11**

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

**Matthew 10:37–42**

[Jesus said,] “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”



# Resist Comparison

Adam Tran-Chung

**S**t. Teresa of Ávila wrote, “Never compare one person with another: comparisons are odious.” We live in a world where

comparison is only a thumb-swipe away. On our phones, we’re instantly greeted with images of perfect lives—highlight reels of vacations, achievements, relationships, etc. It can be so easy for us to fall into the trap of looking at our own lives through the filter of someone else’s social media page.

The temptation of comparison has been around for a long time, but social media gives it an immediate and ever-present platform. We can trace this comparison to Adam and Eve, when the serpent whispered to Eve, You’re missing out. You could be more.

Is God really working in my life the way he works in others? But comparisons are distortions of reality. They shrink the way we view ourselves, others, and even God. Instead of seeing the unique way that God is working in our own lives, we risk reducing ourselves to the bare metrics—followers, likes,

hearts. We begin to live performatively, curating our lives to look more put-together or holy, and we lose sight of who we truly are—who God is calling us to be.

So, what can we do? One of the most basic but effective antidotes to comparison is gratitude. When we take time to recognize how God is uniquely present in our lives—through friendships, small victories, or quiet moments of grace—we learn to see our lives in communion with others. Another person’s blessing does not mean we are lacking; it simply means that person was blessed by God. Rather than comparing our lives to those of others, we should rejoice. Rejoice that God is working in the lives of others. We must never forget that in the kingdom of God, there is no competition; there is only communion.

**Comparison is only a thumb-swipe away.**

From “Social Media Perspectives” by Adam Tran-Chung, Liguorian, July/August 2025. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Your Conscience and Church Teaching: How Do They Fit Together” by Nicholas Lohkamp, OFM

If we refuse to hear what the Church is saying just because we are upset by method or style, we risk missing the vital teaching help of the Church and suffering serious consequences in trying to respond to Christ’s call. Even when it requires reexamining our values, opinions, and conduct, each of us must seek to be “teachable”—open, willing, even eager to hear the teaching of the Church. Our duty in conscience is to know the official teaching of the Church. This means getting to the heart of the matter to discern the values being taught. Such an attitude keeps us sincerely concerned, respectful, and involved.

*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](http://Liguori.org).



Faithful God, as we each struggle with our own cross, make us mindful of the burdens others must carry, and allow us to be a blessing to them. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

June 29—July 4

**Monday, Sts. Peter and Paul:** Acts 12:1–11 / 2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18 / Mt 16:13–19

**Tuesday, Weekday:** Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 / Mt 8:23–27

**Wednesday, Weekday:** Am 5:14–15, 21–24 / Mt 8:28–34

**Thursday, Weekday:** Am 7:10–17 / Mt 9:1–8

**Friday, St. Thomas:** Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

**Saturday, Weekday:** Am 9:11–15 / Mt 9:14–17



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](http://Liguori.org).