

Dear Padre,

Is envy a sin? I find myself becoming very envious of people who have more than I do. I find it difficult to be content with what my family and I have now.

We live in a climate that encourages discontent with what we have. Advertising plays on our feelings of envy and our desire for possessions. In this almost universal rush to possess more and better material objects, Christians are called to a counter-witness. We are called to embrace a freedom and a poverty of spirit that actually rejoices in the blessings of others.

The Tenth Commandment alerts us to the danger of undisciplined envy: “You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Exodus 20:17). In the New Testament, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there also will be our heart. (See Matthew 6:21.) The real antidote to envy, then, is prayers of thanks for all God has given to us and others. To feel envious, to desire or covet someone else’s possessions, is not in itself a mortal sin. But to let that feeling invade your mind, to indulge it and rationalize it, is to let that feeling harden into an envious frame of mind. Then you are flirting with real sin. The grave sin is to allow these envious thoughts to drive you to any injustice or evil. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums it up well: “Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother’s [and sister’s] progress, and you will immediately give glory to God” (2540). ●

Fr. Paul J. Coury, 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*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 6	October 7	October 8	October 9	October 10	October 11	October 12
Weekday	Our Lady of the	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Twenty-eighth
Jon 1:1–2:2, 11	Rosary	Jon 4:1–11	Mal 3:13–20b	Jl 1:13–15; 2:1–2	Jl 4:12–21	Sunday in
Lk 10:25–37	Jon 3:1–10	Lk 11:1–4	Lk 11:5–13	Lk 11:15–26	Lk 11:27–28	Ordinary Time
	Lk 10:38–42					2 Kgs 5:14–17
						2 Tm 2:8–13
						Lk 17:11–19



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 5, 2025
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4 / 2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14 / Luke 17:5–10



Never Big Enough

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Childhood daydreams come peppered with visions of heroes and heroines, movie stars and rock stars, fame and notoriety.

Eventually, however, we adjust our visions of what we can become as we are confronted by the reality of who we are. Seldom, however, are our daydreams and visions big enough. They tend to be only about ourselves, barely including others.

The same may be said about becoming people of faith. Too readily we think of faith simply as our personal decision to believe in God. Faith then becomes one-sided—the prayers we say, the Masses we attend, the Church’s rules we obey. Like the people of the prophet Habakkuk’s day, we may bemoan, “I cry for help and you do not listen.... [I] cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ and you do not intervene” (Habakkuk 1:2).

Then, too, our faith and its vision for life are not big enough, for we do not allow room for God to slip into our lives and do what God does. Then, faith is only about ourselves—our needs and struggles and pains. Faith needs to be a surrender to God’s vision, not simply for ourselves, but for all of life. [The LORD said,] “The vision is a witness for the appointed time...it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late” (Habakkuk 2:3). The difficulty is that we want God to make life perfect for us the way we want it and when we want it. Then, it becomes our vision for life and not God’s. ●

Reflect

Have I ever given up my vision or plan and found God’s plan to be perfect for me?

