

# Dear Padre,

## What are the role and responsibilities of a parish priest in his church and community?

Primarily, a parish priest is a teacher and sanctifier. As teacher, he is obliged to instruct people in the faith, especially through the homily and catechetical formation—the Catholic education of children and young adults. He fosters “works through which the spirit of the gospel is promoted, even in what pertains to social justice.” With lay assistance, he brings the gospel message “to those who have ceased the practice of their religion or do not profess the true faith” (*Code of Canon Law* 528 §1).

As sanctifier, he works “so that the Christian faithful are nourished through the devout celebration of the sacraments,” especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance. He is also responsible for ensuring that the Eucharist is central to the faith community by encouraging active participation in the liturgy and parish life so that it’s authentically celebrated. (See *CCL* 528 §2.)

His other pastoral obligations are in the area of governance. These duties include outreach to those entrusted to his care, especially the sick and dying. He fosters growth in the Christian life within the family. “[W]ith particular diligence he is to seek out the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their country, and similarly those weighed down by special difficulties.” Moreover, he is responsible for grounding his local community within the broader universal Church’s mission. (See *CCL* 529.) ●



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Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / Dear Padre.org

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>Monday</b> May 11 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 16:11–15 Jn 15:26–16:4a	<b>Thursday</b> May 14 <i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i> Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 Jn 15:9–17	<b>Sunday</b> May 17 <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i> Acts 1:1–11 Eph 1:17–23 Mt 28:16–20
<b>Tuesday</b> May 12 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 16:22–34 Jn 16:5–11	<b>Friday</b> May 15 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 18:9–18 Jn 16:20–23	
<b>Wednesday</b> May 13 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 Jn 16:12–15	<b>Saturday</b> May 16 Acts 18:23–28 Jn 16:23b–28	

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*The Lord wanted us in this time filled with challenges that, at times, seem to exceed our strength. We are called to embrace these challenges, to interpret them evangelically, to experience them as opportunities to bear witness. Let us not flee from them! Pastoral commitment, like that of study, become for us a school to learn how to build the kingdom of God in today’s complex and challenging history.*

ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY OF ROME,  
JUNE 12, 2025



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17 / 1 Peter 3:15–18 / John 14:15–21



## The Already and the Not Yet

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

**T**he church celebrates again and again during the Easter season a core truth of Christian thought and belief: “the already and the not yet.” Jesus has already saved us, but we have not yet experienced the fullness of the kingdom. In this belief, there is tension, the experience of standing in the middle, where the tension is lived, and hopefully where balance is achieved.

What makes the tension bearable is that we know we have not been left as orphans. We are not on our own. The Spirit of God is sent to us and enables us to hold fast to what we have known and experienced and what is still unknown to us. Scripture and tradition, dogmas and doctrines, sacraments and sacramentals, practices and disciplines, all inspired by the Spirit of God, provide us with the necessary support and direction and help us remain balanced.

As wonderful as each of these gifts of the Spirit may be, each gift must be received, encountered, enabled, and lived. If the gifts are given but never received—and, even more important, used and shared—we not only refuse a gift freely given by our God but also deprive ourselves of the means to maintain our balance and remain on the path that leads to life and light. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

*Is there a gift from God I have not received or lived? How can I begin?*



[Jesus said to his disciples,]  
“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

JOHN 14:18