

Dear Padre,

I struggle to relate to traditional devotions like the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Any advice?

Christ instructed his followers to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind. (See Matthew 22:37.) We seek a deeper union with God not only through reason and understanding but also through feelings and affections. However, as Pope Francis pointed out, “Many people feel safer...in the more readily controllable domain of intelligence and will” (*Dilexit Nos* [On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ], 10). Descartes said of us, “I think, therefore I am,” but it can also be said that “I am my heart, for my heart is what sets me apart, shapes my spiritual identity, and puts me in communion with other people” (*DN* 14).

Moreover, the heart “is the place of encounter” with God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2563). Pope Francis acknowledges that some people today may not find the Sacred Heart image to be meaningful (See *DN* 2.), but it’s “a summons to make room for an encounter with Christ...in whatever way we wish to picture him” (*DN* 57). “More than any other part of his body, the heart of Jesus” represents “his boundless love” (*DN* 48). Therefore, “any act of love or worship of his heart is thus ‘really and truly given to Christ himself,’ since it spontaneously refers back to him and is ‘a symbol and a tender image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ’” (*DN* 50). ●



JOAN SUTTER / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 21:1–16 Mt 5:38–42	1 Kgs 21:17–29 Mt 5:43–48	2 Kgs 2:1, 6–14 Mt 6:1–6, 16–18	Sir 48:1–14 Mt 6:7–15	2 Kgs 11:1–4, 9–18, 20 Mt 6:19–23	2 Chr 24:17–25 Mt 6:24–34	Jer 20:10–13 Rom 5:12–15 Mt 10:26–33

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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CRISTIAN GUTIÉRREZ, LC / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Humility is really freedom from ourselves.... Those who exalt themselves generally think that nothing is more interesting than themselves; yet, deep down, they are quite insecure.... Dear friends, today let us pray that the Church will always be a school of humility for everyone, a home where all are welcome, a place where rivalries are set aside and where Jesus...teaches us to imitate his own humility and freedom.

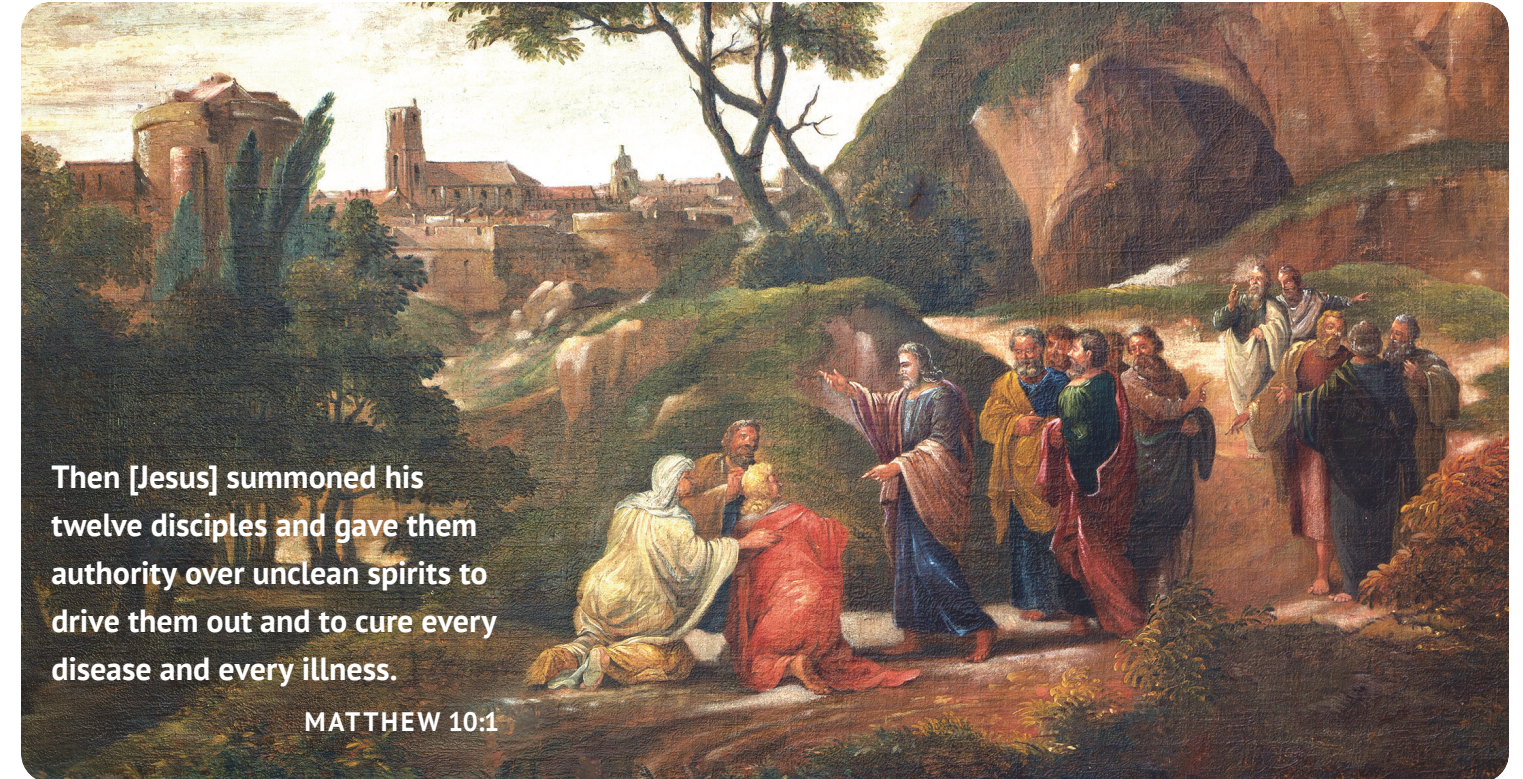
ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 31, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 14, 2026

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Exodus 19:2–6a / Romans 5:6–11 / Matthew 9:36–10:8



Then [Jesus] summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

MATTHEW 10:1

Jesus Calls Together the Twelve

ANN M. GARRIDO

Almost everyone who has picked up a Bible has heard of the twelve tribes of Israel. Named after the twelve sons of the patriarch Jacob, the twelve tribes feature prominently in the Hebrew Scriptures. The twelve tribes are freed from slavery in Egypt and enter the Promised Land together. They then choose from among themselves a king. What would Vacation Bible School be without stories of the twelve tribes?

But read beyond the familiar lore of VBS, and one quickly discovers that the twelve tribes did not remain united. First, the tribes in the North were conquered by the Assyrians. Later, the tribes of the South were decimated by the Babylonians. The family once called by God to become a holy nation was scattered by war and the political machinations of their own leaders. They became like sheep without a shepherd, no longer a flock.

And that is where Jesus steps in, as we read in today’s gospel. As he looks at his people—God’s chosen family—he sees how wounded and lost they are; how polarized they have become. Jesus knows what he needs to do. He calls together the Twelve—a significant number. Jesus saw himself as reuniting his people after a season of painful separation from one another.

Today, Jesus continues to call people to participate in the ministry of reconciliation. Can you imagine your name included among the “twelve” as one who will help heal a divided nation? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Do I unite people by my words and actions, or am I more of a divider?