

Dear Padre,
I raised my children in the faith, but two of them left the Church to embrace another denomination, and two others, although still Catholic, have not committed to regular church attendance. I worry about their salvation.

Your experience is not unknown to many Catholic parents. Many mothers and fathers could probably carry on a good conversation with you about their concerns for the faith lives of their children.

The journey of faith has many paths. An individual may think more deeply about the meaning of life or may find religion after a momentous experience or in the process of gathering with a community in which they find support, clarity, shared beliefs, or guidelines for living morally. For those of us who grew up believing, chances are, we were not introduced to religion through logic. Children are brought to church long before they are aware of their need for God. They learn doctrine and attend worship before questions of faith and religion form within them. Passing on the faith is a great gift that parents give, and it will serve these young people well. Your children have the tools to help them find their way, and God continues to be with them. Follow the example of St. Monica and pray for them. Trust this one to God and continue to be a good example. ●



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 heart. 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



Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 28, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
2 Kings 4:8–11, 14–16a / Romans 6:3–4, 8–11 / Matthew 10:37–42



All for Jesus

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel passage is challenging. If anyone other than Jesus told you that if you love your own family "more than me," you are "not worthy of me," you would laugh in their face! Or, is this what scholars call a "semitism"—a culturally conditioned exaggeration used for effect? What about you are "not worthy of me" unless you "take up [your] cross and follow me," or "whoever finds his life will lose it"? Does Jesus mean these literally, or are these metaphors? And what is "a prophet's reward"?

A friend of mine tried an experiment. He took the Gospel of Matthew and read it through from start to finish as if he had never seen it before. He was astonished! Jesus was serious. He meant it—all of it. Try it yourself without looking for loopholes.

The key in the reading today is "for my sake." The standard, the rule, that absolute mark is "me," that is, Jesus himself, only Jesus, always Jesus. And Jesus sets that mark very high. Take up your cross? Jesus was abandoned on the cross. Jesus gave away his Mother from the cross. Jesus lost his life on the cross. But he found that life: resurrection! That is "a prophet's reward," is it not?

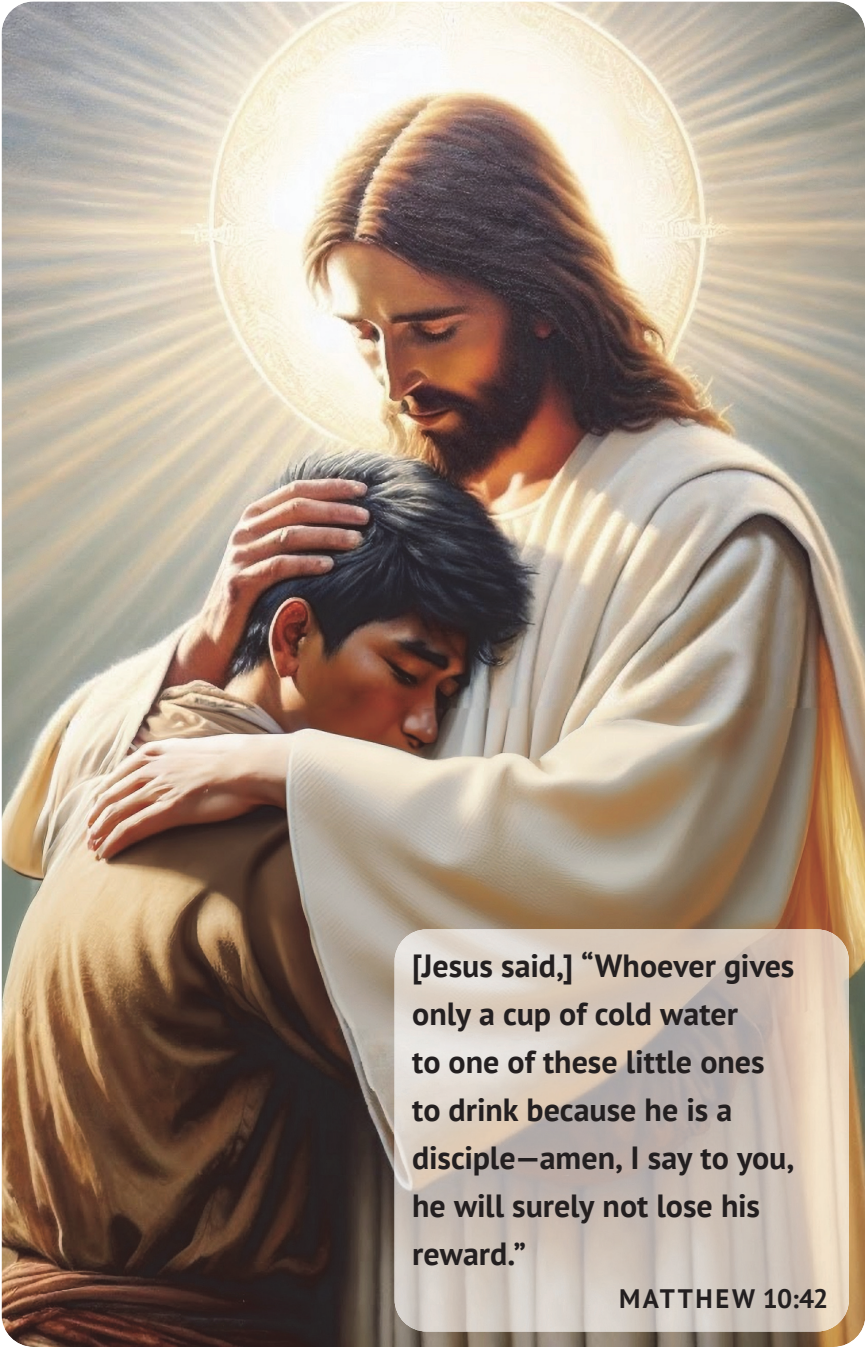
I have to love Jesus' promise, a special "reward" for just sharing "a cup of cold water" with a "little one." It reminds me of Honduras, where I live. Here, a cup of cold water can make the difference between life and death. And that is no exaggeration! ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have I read a whole gospel from start to finish?



[Jesus said,] "Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

MATTHEW 10:42