

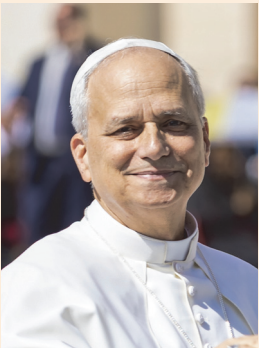
Dear Padre,

I look at what’s going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn’t a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what’s happening in our world today. Judges’ twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity’s need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, “Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God.” It’s easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, “Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin.” Don’t lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God’s kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18–20.) ●



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV
Mission is not so much about “departing,” but instead “remaining” in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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Fr. Byron Miller, 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

July 13
Weekday
Is 1:10–17
Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 14
St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Is 7:1–9
Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 15
St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 10:5–7, 13b–16
Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 16
Weekday
Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19
Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 17
Weekday
Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8
Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 18
Weekday
Mi 2:1–5
Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

July 19
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16–19
Rom 8:26–27
Mt 13:24–3 or 13:24–30

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 12, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 55:10–11 / Romans 8:18–23 / Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9



Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?

[God said,] So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11

