

Dear Padre,

Is “co-redemptrix” a title for the Blessed Virgin Mary?

The Church does not officially regard Mary as a co-redemptrix with Christ. Her “‘unique holiness’...‘from the first instant of her conception’ comes wholly from Christ: she is ‘redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son’” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 492).

According to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the title “co-redemptrix” would “obscure” the origin that “everything comes through Christ,” as written in Ephesians and Colossians. “Mary, too, is everything she is through Him,” stated the future Pope Benedict XVI, adding that “co-redemptrix” is a departure “from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers, and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings.”

Likewise, in 2019, Pope Francis quoted St. Bernard, who said that no praise is sufficient to talk about Mary, but, ultimately, her title as a humble “disciple” best represents Mary’s faithfulness to “her Son, the only Redeemer.” “She never wanted for herself something that was of her Son,” explained the pontiff. “She never introduced herself as co-redemptrix. No. Disciple.”

Pope Francis reiterated the Church’s position on this matter in 2021, saying that Jesus entrusted the universal Church and all the faithful to Mary, “Not as a goddess. Not as a co-redemptrix. As a mother.” Incidentally, “Mother of God” (Greek: *Theotokos*, “God-bearer”) is Mary’s oldest title, established in 431 by the Council of Ephesus. ●

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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24
Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard,	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship	Weekday	Twenty-first
Jgs 2:11–19	Jgs 6:11–24a	Abbot and	Jgs 11:29–39a	of the Blessed	Ru 2:1–3, 8–11;	Sunday in
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Doctor of the	Mt 22:1–14	Virgin Mary	4:13–17	Ordinary Time
		Church		Ru 1:1, 3–6,	Mt 23:1–12	Is 66:18–21
		Jgs 9:6–15		14b–16, 22		Heb 12:5–7,
		Mt 20:1–16		Mt 22:34–40		11–13
						Lk 13:22–30



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Gospel does not leave things as they are; when the Gospel... is listened to and received, things do not stay as they are. The Gospel provokes change and invites to conversion. It does not dispense a false intimist peace, but sparks a restlessness that sets us in motion and drives us to open ourselves up to God and to our brothers and sisters.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 14, 2022

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 17, 2025
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Jeremiah 38:4–6, 8–10 / Hebrews 12:1–4 / Luke 12:49–53



Where I Stand

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

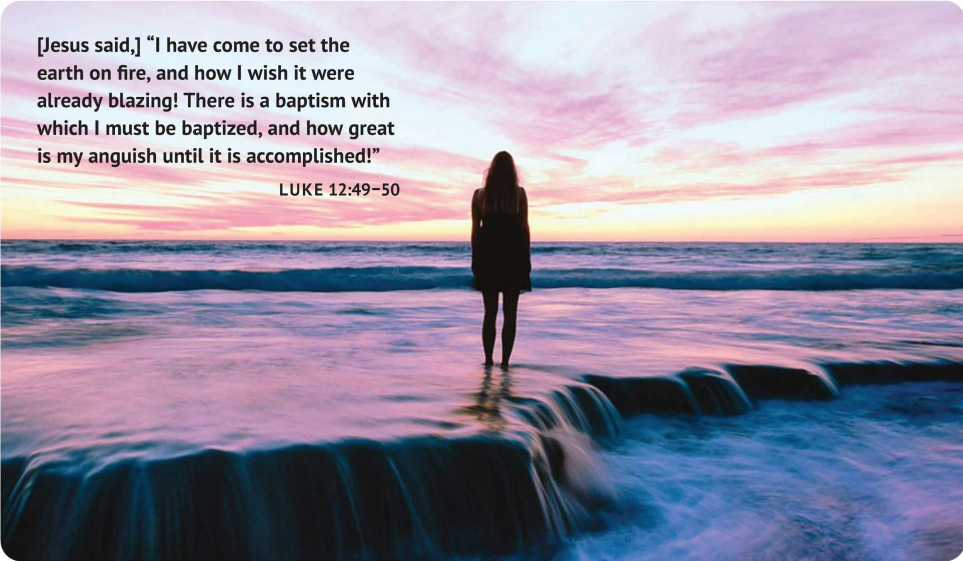
One day, as I was walking in a local nature preserve, I came across what someone had written in the sand: “It’s time to take a stand.” Though the person never suggested what we should take a stand on, all of us take stands in life. In many ways, those stands define our lives: Republican or Democrat, pro-life or pro-choice, NRA and guns, save the whales, vax or anti-vax, ecology. As we all know so well, where we stand on any given issue can become divisive among friends and even family.

The Scriptures this weekend tell of the prophet Jeremiah, who took a stand of faith against the king who trusted in military arms rather than in God. The Letter to

the Hebrews mentions an Old Testament “cloud of witnesses” who placed faith in God without knowing where that would take them. And, Jesus himself recognizes that those who place their faith in him and the vision of life he proclaimed would find themselves in conflict with others. For every person who professes faith in Jesus Christ, the question becomes how this faith affects all the other stands we take. To “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” influences the lifestyle we choose, how we spend our time and our money, who our friends are, and even who we vote for. At some point, faith insists we take a stand. ●

Reflect

How does my faith affect all my other beliefs and practices?



[Jesus said,] “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!”

LUKE 12:49–50