



God, Death, and Us

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

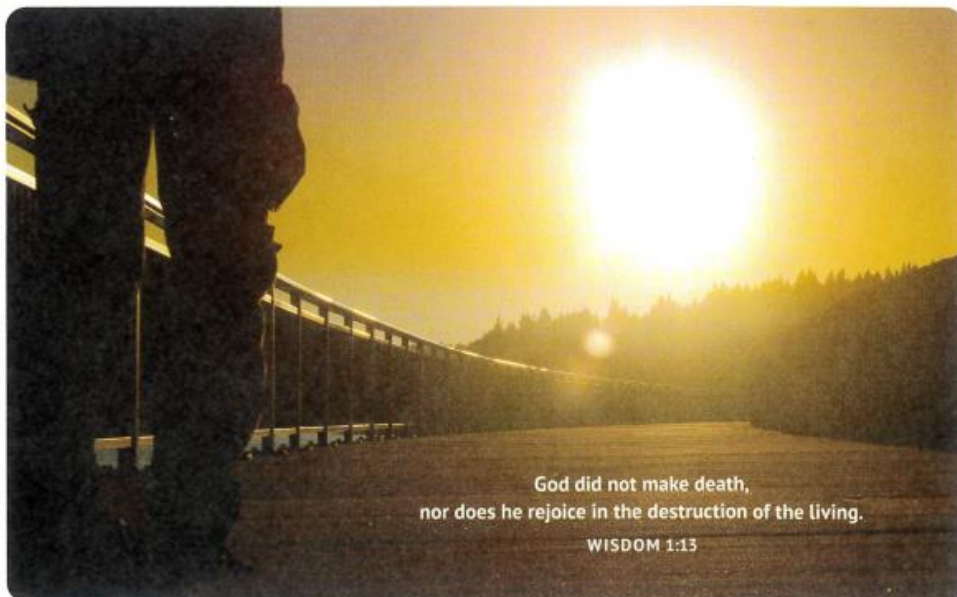
The hospital called, saying a young man had been in an accident and wanted to see a priest. As it turned out, I found him in a coma, and it was his parents who sparked the phone call. His girlfriend was there, and so the two of us talked about the accident and what happened, then about Michael and his interests and gentleness, and eventually his faith and goodness. She didn't understand, she told me, why God would do this to someone so good and how God certainly must have wanted this to happen.

I wanted to tell her I didn't believe God did this sort of thing, orchestrating traffic accidents. I hesitated, but then said so, only I tried to say it gently and kindly so it might be less like a lecture in Spirituality 101. I mumbled something about not believing in that sort of God, that I didn't believe God handed out death or suffering to folks. With her head hanging down, she just said, no—she thought God did.

Well, it seemed to me that that was not the time for any theological debate on questions about God, so I simply said no more about it. Then she and I prayed for Michael, or rather I prayed aloud, and she just sat there holding my hand and maybe praying silently or maybe not praying at all—I really wasn't sure. After I left I found myself wondering if she thought as much about my response as I thought about her answer. ●

Reflect

*Where do you find God
when bad things happen?*



God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.

WISDOM 1:13

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

From Fr. Pampara:

Faith is our personal response to a God who continues to reveal himself to us and invites us to recognize his holiness and beauty. The Bible shows us the ways in which God reveals himself to human persons and invites him to respond in faith. Every situation in the world presents a very great contrast between human powerlessness in the face of sickness and death on the one hand, and the striking force of faith on the other. We are in a constant relationship with a God of wonder who transforms us, heals us and removes our pains and transforms them into joy. Faith works miracles and there are thousands of small miracles that no-one notices them except those concerned. Certainly people are aware of the work of the power of God in human situations. In this rational world we need spiritual insight to recognize the working of these miracles. But faith is there like a small seed which when planted in the human heart grows slowly to yield fruit. Today's readings invite us to reflect on how profoundly faith influences our view of the world and our actions. In the Gospel faith brings new life to the Synagogue Official's daughter and to a woman who was suffering for twelve years. She only touched the garments of Jesus and she was healed. The Gospel tells us about the divine power and infinite mercy of Jesus. Apart from proving his claim to be the promised Messiah, all his miracles had as their aim and their end to remove the pain and sufferings of human persons. He did not perform any miracle for the sake of astonishing people or to satisfy idle curiosity of people. Each one was performed to help someone in distress. All who were helped by his miracle of mercy had one thing in common, namely, they were motivated by faith in him and trusted fully in his mercy and power." Here in the case of Jairus it was the relatives and friends of the girl who showed faith and confidence in him. In the case of the unnamed woman it was her faith that made her touch him and her courage made her accept the transformation in her.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of July 1, 2024

Mon.	July	01	7:00 AM	SJ	Tres Vieyra
Tues.	July	02	7:00 AM	SJ	Charles & Margaret Opela †
Wed.	July	03	5:30 PM	SA	Cathy Weaver†
Thurs.	July	04	8:30 AM	SB	Nancy Willis†
Fri.	July	05	7:00 AM	SJ	Rokker Sierks
Sun.	July	07	8:00 AM	SJ	Rain
Sun.	July	07	9:30 AM	SA	Ruth Conner†
Sun.	July	07	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish

A graphic with the words "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" in a stylized, bubbly font. The letters are white with a red outline and are set against a red, cloud-like background.

Jon Walz July 4th
Norma Barraza July 6th

Happy Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Pandorf July 8th
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Stallbaumer July 9th

Ministry Schedule

Date: July 7	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Julie B.	Dan & Jo T.	Cole K. Family
Lector	Mary A.	Emily P.	Jon W.
Server		Emma S. & Erin F.	Cotter J. & Gregory W.
EMHC	Charles F. & Con P.	John R. & Mike P.	Rex & Kristie W.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Jenny & Cayson

<u>St. Agnes</u>	<u>St. Boniface</u>	<u>St. John's</u>
Our Gifts to God & Church June 23, 2024 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$368.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$4014/so far \$3040 Donor Goal: 9 out of 16 Thrift Store Open July 5th from 9AM to 4PM	Our Gifts to God & Church June 23, 2024 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$699.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$7306/ so far \$7330 Donor Goal: 17 out of 19 The dollar goal is REACHED Pool Party! Monday, July 8th 6:00-8:00PM Callaway Aquatics Center Snacks Provided!	Our Gifts to God & Church June 23, 2024 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$645.00 <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal=\$5001/so far \$5020 Donor Goal: 16 out of 17 The dollar goal is REACHED!

From Holy Spirit Church in North Platte: In conjunction with the Year of the Eucharist, books are being sold that contain the stories that parishioners have delivered monthly from the pulpit. In addition, other parishioners have written stories as well as people who have relocated from the parish. Children from McDaid have drawn pictures and written about their belief in the Eucharist.

Part 11 talks about saints who were especially fond of the Holy Eucharist. There is a section about Communicants who have received Jesus early in their lives and some who have received Jesus late in life. Father Sagar has written a beautiful forward in the book.

We need to get a number to the printers of those who want to purchase a book, The books are \$15.00. Please call Kelsy at 308-534-6623 and she will get your information. Deadline is 5:00 pm July 3, 2024.

Monica Kramer

Quotes for Today

Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria (1502-1539)

"Before starting your activities, offer Jesus a few words, then during your work often lift up your mind to God. You will benefit much and there will be no detriment to your job."

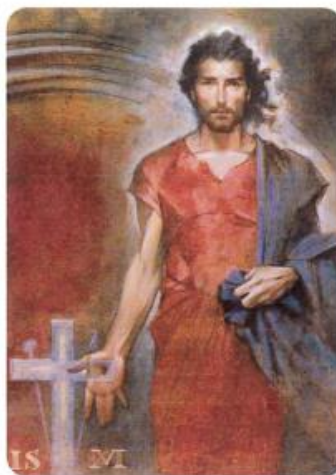
Dear Padre,

Does God have a plan for each of us?

We collaborate with God through continual prayer and discernment in planning out our best path of life. This path allows us to fulfill God's ultimate plan—namely, to find meaning in the life he gave us, enjoy his friendship while on earth, and spend eternal life with him in heaven.

God doesn't force us to live out our existence in some programmed, robotic way according to a predestined plan or inevitable fate over which we have no control. Rather, we're free and responsible for our own actions.

Moreover, God's plan for each of us is to experience his profound love and love him in return. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). As the supreme sign of God's love, his plan of salvation from the beginning of time was to send us his only begotten Son. "Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains...in his first sermon on Pentecost: 'This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599). "By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part" (CCC 604). ●



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
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Weekday	Weekday	St. Thomas, Apostle	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 2:6–10, 13–16 Mt 8:18–22	Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 Mt 8:23–27	Eph 2:19–22 Jn 20:24–29	Am 7:10–17 Mt 9:1–8	Am 8:4–6, 9–12 Mt 9:9–13	Am 9:11–15 Mt 9:14–17	Ez 2:2–5 2 Cor 12:7–10 Mk 6:1–6a

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let Jesus look at and heal your heart.... And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step.... Love alone heals life.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021