

Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org



SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.

ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 2026

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SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about [Dear Padre](http://DearPadre.org).

Monday

August 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1-5

Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

September 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b-16

Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1-9

Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

September 3

St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor of
the Church

1 Cor 3:18-23

Lk 5:1-11

Friday

September 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1-5

Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

September 5

Weekday

1 Cor 4:6b-15

Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

September 6

Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20

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

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August 30, 2026

I Just Told You!

MIGUEL DULICK

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—"Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—"Come after me" (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not too far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same "trigger" word: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cross! That's how the controversy started, when Peter "took Jesus aside" (literally, "collared" him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

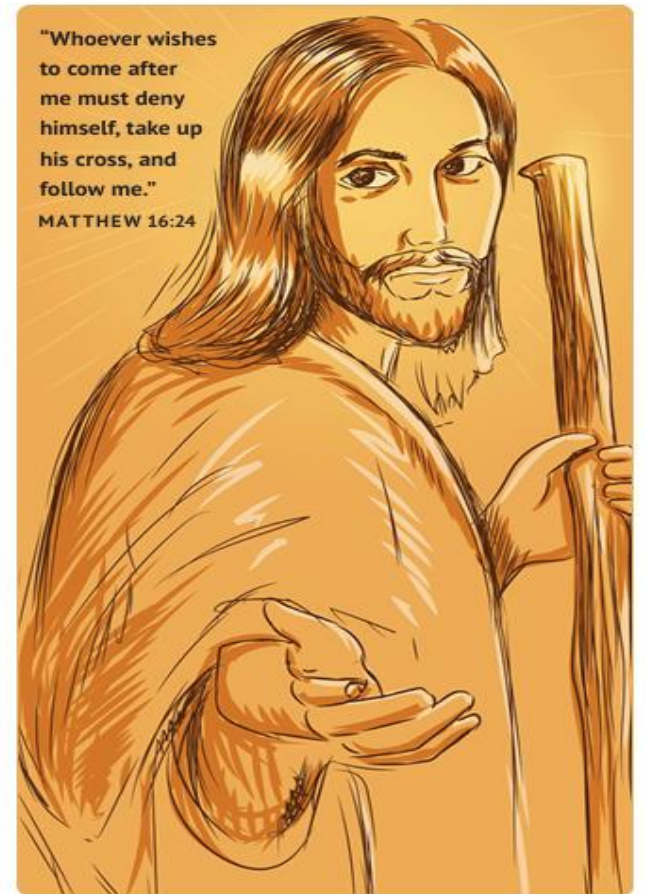
How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don't even want to admit I'm a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Everything for Jesus. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

"Whoever wishes
to come after
me must deny
himself, take up
his cross, and
follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24



Reflect

What cross are you carrying? Can you unite it with Jesus' cross and offer it as prayer?

Twentieth-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) August 30, 2026

Today's Gospel continues the story that began in [last week's Gospel](#). Simon Peter was called the “rock” upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus’ identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him “Satan.” In opposing this aspect of Jesus’ mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ’s disciple is to follow in his way of the cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus’ prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called “rock” would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

NEEDED Mass Intentions: Please consider having a mass for your loved ones living and deceased.

Mass Schedule & Intentions					
For the week of August 31, 2026					
Mon.	Aug.	31	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Sept.	01	7:00 AM	SJ	Henry N. Walz
Wed.	Sept.	02	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Sept.	03	5:30 PM	SB	Special Intention
Fri.	Sept.	04	8:30 AM	SJ	Travis Kester
Sun.	Sept.	05	8:00 AM	SJ	Steve & Kodie Nowak†
Sun.	Sept.	06	9:30 AM	SA	People of the Parish
Sun.	Sept.	06	11:00 AM	SB	Robert Brestel †
Pope Saint Gregory the Great (540-604) Feast Day September 3; “A man does not climb a mountain in great bounds, but by taking slow, steady steps.”					

HAPPY

Birthday

Ruby Kennedy Aug. 31st
Nolan Weber Sept 1st
Jim Phelps Sept 6th

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Luke Boeser Sept 4th

Ministry Schedule

Date Sept 6	St John’s	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Quincy & Bobbi O.	Ned & Jenny P.	Cade & Newt O.
Lector	Jenny J.	John B.	Emily P.
Server	Avery B. & Rokker S.		Olivia F. & Rudy K.
EMHC	Rex & Kristie W.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Seth & Tristan P.
	Music: Kristy O.		Communion to shut ins Steve B.

St. John’s

Our Gifts to God & Church

August 23, 2026

Total Collection: \$312.00

CCD will begin Sept 9th.

All classes will begin following school with mass at 4 PM. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend if possible. Classes will end after mass.

Quote for Today

Venerable Fulton Sheen

(1895-1979)

“Prayer begins by talking to God, but it ends by listening to Him. In the face of Absolute Truth, silence is the soul’s language.”

St. Agnes

Our Gifts to God & Church

August 23, 2026

Total Collection: \$350.00

Thrift Store

Open Sept 11th 9AM to 4PM

All Parishes:

Most Rev. Bishop Hanefeldt is coming!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday October 21st and plan to join us at St John’s at 6:30 PM for a Holy Hour to pray for vocations with the Bishop.



St. Boniface

Our Gifts to God & Church

August 23, 2026

Total Collection: \$838.00

*1st class for 4th graders to Seniors is Wed, Sept 2nd starting with kids’ meal and parent registration at 6:30 and class at 7pm.

*P-KK to 3rd graders also meeting Sept 2nd From 4-6 PM.

Community Potluck

Sept 2nd at noon at the Seven Valley Senior Center

Everyone of all ages is invited

Alpha

Are you curious about Jesus? Please join us to unpack the Christian faith! Wednesdays, starting September 16th, at the Callaway library. 6:15-7:30. Please contact Emily for more information: 308-660-0984