

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.



IMMACULATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

MESSAGE ON WORLD
DAY OF THE SICK,
ROME, FEBRUARY 11,
2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

August 24
St. Bartholomew,
Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14
Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday

August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17
Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday

August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday

August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1-9
Mt 24:42-51

Friday

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop
and Doctor of the
Church
1 Cor 1:17-25
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday

August 29
The Passion of St.
John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26-31
Mk 6:17-29

Sunday

August 30
Twenty-second
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

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

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August 16, 2026

Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do you say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

MATTHEW 16:16

Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about [Jesus' walking on the water](#) and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead, our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact, the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

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

Mass Schedule & Intentions					
For the week of August 17, 2026					
Mon.	Aug.	17	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Aug.	18	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Aug.	19	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Aug.	20	5:30 PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	Aug.	21	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Sat.	Aug.	22	5:30 PM	SJ	Vincent D. Walz
Sun.	Aug.	23	9:30 AM	SA	Lee Eastburn †
Sun.	Aug.	23	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish †

Please pray for Fr. Micheal while he is away on retreat.
Fr. Joe will be celebrating mass with us next weekend Aug 22-23.



Tara Boeser Aug 18th



Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Bunner Aug 20th
Mr. & Mrs. James Opela Aug. 21st
Mr. & Mrs. Don Pandorf Aug. 21st

Ministry Schedule

Date: August 22-23	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Saturday 5:30 PM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Cody & Charli O.	Julie B.	Steve & Rhonda P.
Lector	Tara B.	Evan B.	Seth P.
Server	Wyatt D. Gregory W.		Amelia P. & Taygen B.
EMHC	Jon & Molly W.	Evan B. & Gary M.	John R. & Mike P.
	Music: Jenny		Communion to shut ins Mike P.

St. John's
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 9, 2026
Total Collection: **\$321.70**

CCD will begin Sept 9th.

St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 9, 2026
Total Collection: **\$3184.00**

Thrift Store
Open August 21st 9AM to 4PM

St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 9, 2026
Total Collection: **\$1245.00**

Garden Produce
If you have extra, please
bring it to the church.
There will be a box for
them.

Come celebrate God's faithfulness
and blessings at a NE State Fair
Mass.
Both masses will be held in the
southwest corner of the fairgrounds on
the ACP Stage, in front of the Aurora Co-
op Pavilion (east side). Bishop Emeritus
Dendinger will celebrate Mass on August
30 with the local 20-member Catholic
Contemporary Worship Team providing
music. Most Rev. Joseph Hanefeldt will
celebrate Mass on September 6 with the
Catholic Worship Team providing
traditional music. Both
celebrations will be at 8:30 a.m.,
and all donations will go to the
Howard/Greeley Food Pantry.

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.



Quote for Today

Feast Day August 17th

Saint Clare of the Cross
(1268-1308)

"Who teaches the soul
but God? There is no
better instruction for the
world than what comes
from God."