

Dear Padre,

I know a Catholic couple who wanted to celebrate their sacrament of matrimony at a Mass in a forest, but the bishop didn't allow it. Why not marry in God's creation?

A marriage between Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic is usually celebrated in a parish church. It can be celebrated in another church or oratory with the bishop or pastor's permission. A marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person can be celebrated in a church or another suitable place, although a Catholic church remains the preferred place for the celebration.

Why is the parish church the preferred site for the celebration? For Catholics, matrimony is a sacrament—one of the seven sacred signs through which God communicates love to us. When Catholics ask God to bind their union as a sacrament, the couple's love for each other is a sign of God's love for both, and their union is also a continuous sign of Christ's love for the Church. Thus, the church as a "house of God," which contains the presence of Christ, is revered as the most sacred place to make this most sacred commitment. Marriage, according to Pope Francis in a 2015 General Audience, "is not merely a ceremony in a church, with flowers, a dress, photographs....Christian marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church, and which also makes the Church, by giving rise to a new family community....[Saint] Paul says that the love between spouses is an image of the love between Christ and his Church. An unimaginable dignity!" ●



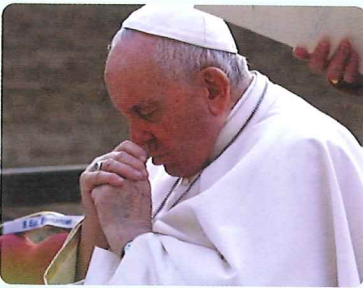
CNS PHOTO/ARLEN CALAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

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
May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Weekday	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 14:5-18	Acts 14:19-28	Acts 15:1-6	Acts 15:17-21	Acts 15:22-31	Acts 16:1-10	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Jn 14:21-26	Jn 14:27-31a	Jn 15:1-8	Jn 15:9-11	Jn 15:12-17	Jn 15:18-21	1 Pt 3:15-18 Jn 14:15-21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] knows that, in life, the worst anxiety, anguish, arises from the sensation of not being able to cope, of feeling alone and without points of reference when faced with events. We cannot overcome this anguish alone...and this is why Jesus asks us to have faith in him, that is, to lean not on ourselves but on him.

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 10, 2020

CNS PHOTO/VATICAN MEDIA



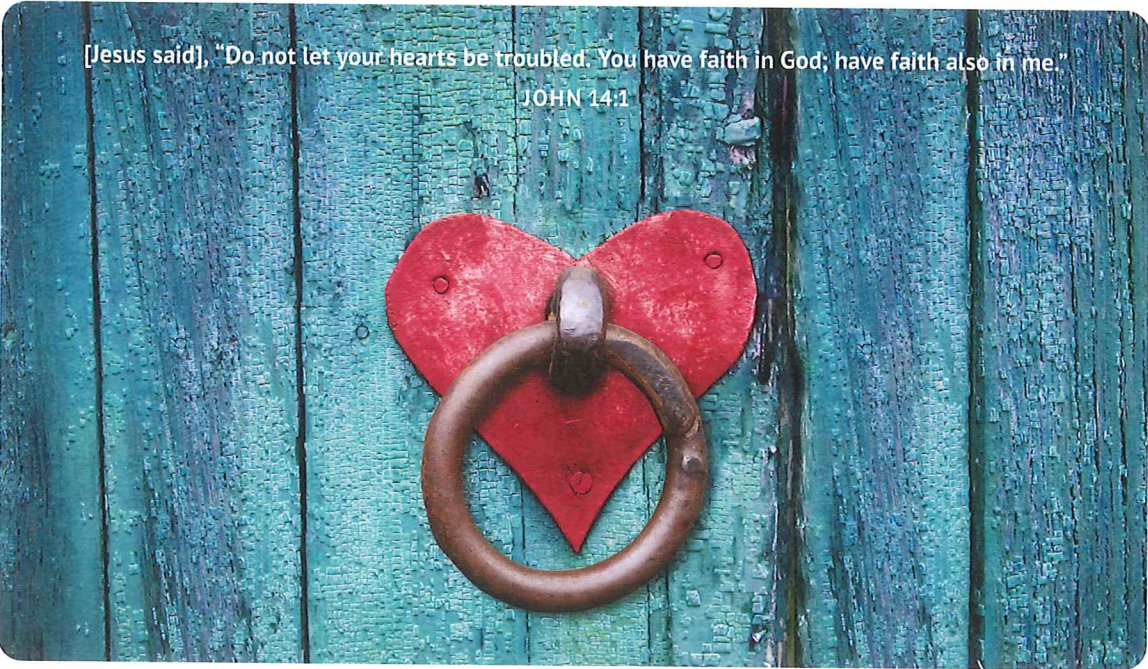
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12



Where the Heart Is

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some would say that the purpose of life is to save one's soul. And certainly we should try, with the grace of God, to live our lives in such a way that we avoid evil and do good in order to do our part in building God's kingdom on earth. At the same time, we must remember that it is God who saves us. We don't save ourselves. Eternal life and happiness are byproducts of loving others. If the focus of one's life is to be happy, one never achieves it. If one seeks to serve others, however, happiness seems to find us. So also eternal life.

Robert Frost's "The Death of a Hired Man" is a poem about Silas, an aging drifter farmhand, and Warren and Mary, a farming couple who give Silas a room whenever he comes around.

Silas comes when he is needed the least and leaves when his presence would be most helpful, all of which frustrates Warren. In the poem Silas has returned, and Mary thinks it will be his last time, that he is dying. She says to Warren that theirs is the only home Silas has. Warren simply shakes his head as if to gently mock the idea of home: "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, / They have to take you in." Mary says it differently, "I should have called it / Something you somehow haven't to deserve."

Is that not also the promise of Jesus? "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2). Something we somehow haven't to deserve. ●

Reflect

Where do you feel truly at home—and is Jesus invited?



Rectory & Parish Office
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
Mailing Address: PO Box 983
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5/6/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Tom Bachman

E.O.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman

5/7/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Volunteer

E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman-Fuller

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5/13/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Debbie Frederick

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

5/14/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Luke Woodrow, Cade & Jace Berning

Reader: Kyle Berning

E.O. HC: Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 6	No Mass	For the People
Sunday, May 7	9:00 a.m.	Delores Mies
Monday, May 8	No Mass	
Tuesday, May 9	No Mass	
Thursday, May 11	8:30 a.m.	Harold Smith
Friday, May 12	8:30 a.m.	Rebecca Burden
Saturday, May 13	4: 00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 14	9:00 a.m.	Leon Martinez

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

MAY 7— 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps. 33:1-2)

My friends, this Sunday’s Gospel passage from John is from what is called the Last Supper Discourse, a conversation Jesus has with his disciples after washing their feet. Jesus knows that he doesn’t have much time left. His passion and death are right around the corner. And he seems to be attempting to get them to understand some pretty important things about himself and his mission. And one of those things is the idea that, if they want to know God, they only need look at him and his life: his love and compassion, his teachings, his witness, his miracles, his attitudes, his outlook, his priorities. Jesus says, “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Can we say the same about ourselves?

After all, Jesus reveals God to us in a perfect way --- in everything he said and did --- and even in the totality of his person --- that is, in his very being. Therefore, we, imperfect creatures will never be able to reveal God to others in the complete and perfect way that Jesus did and does. That simply would not be possible.

How can little old me and little old you --- with all our imperfections, faults, limitations, and sin --- how can we help others come to know God? My humble suggestion is by doing our best to imitate our Lord in all that we say and do.

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for April 30 , 2023: Envelopes: \$630 Loose: \$284; Online Giving: \$592.84; Total \$1506; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under—254.33

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$25063.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Wednesday, 5/10 @ 5:30 p.m.

Mother’s Day Parish Breakfast Sunday, 5/14 after 9:00 a.m. Mass

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from the Prayer of Consecration for Deacons) Lord God, send forth upon us your Holy Spirit that we may be strengthened by your gift of grace. May we excel in every virtue: in love that is sincere, in concern for the sick and the poor, in self-discipline, and in holiness of life. May we in this life imitate your Son – who came not to be served but to serve – that we may one day reign with him in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 14:1-12)

Looking ahead This passage is part of a “farewell discourse” in which Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for his death. He doesn’t want them to feel frightened and lost when he’s arrested and crucified. Because Jesus is now risen, we interpret this passage as Christ speaking to us today.

Dwelling places By many dwelling places Jesus means that there is room for everyone in the divine or triune life. Everyone has a place in God’s house. People enter into union with God through Jesus, who prepares a place for them. This imagery about Jesus preparing a place for his followers recalls the imagery we heard last Sunday. In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as the gate. Just as Jesus is the gate for his sheep, so he prepares a place for people who yearn to enter into eternal life.

The way, the truth, and the life John’s Gospel impresses upon us the relationship Jesus has with God. Jesus and God, whom Jesus readily calls his Father, are one. They are in perfect unity or communion with each other. God sent Jesus into the world, where Jesus perfectly fulfilled his Father’s will. Thus, to believe in Jesus is to believe in God, and vice versa (14:1, 10). Because Jesus is in perfect unity with his Father, he is the way to union with God. People come to believe in this way through the works that Jesus has done, works that include both his deeds and his testimony. These works reveal the truth about Jesus. Ultimately, those who believe Jesus enter into life with him and his Father.

Greater works God reveals himself and draws people to himself through Jesus. Once Jesus is crucified and raised up he will bestow his creative power, the Holy Spirit, on his followers so that they can continue this work (v.12). Their works will seem greater because through them the now risen Christ will reach more people and will fully reveal his glory. The final verses of this passage remind us of Matthew 7:7f and Mark 11:24. The risen Christ stands with his Church. We, in turn, strive to ask of Christ only that which will glorify God (oursundayreangs.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Acts 6:1-7)

What’s the problem? The problem that Luke describes in this passage isn’t clear. All we can tell for certain is that the material needs of certain widows weren’t being met.

Linking the material and the spiritual In both Acts and his Gospel Luke creates a link between the use of material possessions and a person’s spiritual state. People who aren’t attached to money and possessions show that they’re also spiritually free to follow Jesus.

Sharing authority By telling how seven new men were entrusted with the distribution of material goods, Luke shows how they were entrusted with spiritual authority. Just as Jesus entrusted the Twelve with his authority, now the Twelve share this power and authority with others. The story emphasizes the continuity of Christian leadership as the community grows outward from Judea. The number seven represents wholeness or completion.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” 1 PETER 2:7

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan.

“La piedra que desecharon los constructores se ha convertido en la piedra angular”. 1 PEDRO 2:7

A cada persona se le han otorgado dones del Espíritu Santo. Son los llamados “carismas” y se utilizan para construir el reino de Dios en la tierra. Si bien muchas personas son capaces de reconocer sus talentos y habilidades naturales, pueden estar inseguros de sus carismas. Si conoce a alguien que se esfuerza por conseguirle sentido a la vida, dele un poco de ánimo. Ayúdalo a discernir sus carismas y como Dios lo llama para que los use. Recuerde, ningún don es demasiado pequeño o insignificante en el plan de salvación de Dios. (Www.archstl.org)

UNITING IN LOVE

I have celebrated the weekend Masses at each one of our 48 parishes in the last 365 days – what a blessing! Celebrating these Holy Masses at each parish united me with each of you as your bishop. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic lives, a great act of unity.

During my first travels to each parish as your new bishop years ago, I took a large map of the diocese. My homily was about our different “levels” of Church: the domestic Church (the family), the parish Church, the diocesan Church (the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City), the universal Church, and the saints and souls in heaven and earth and all creation. Each “level” has a head: the parents, the pastor, the bishop, the pope, and our Loving God.

In gratitude, we share ourselves at each level. We give our gifts of time, abilities and charisms, and our tithing and almsgiving, all in acts of love. A specific part of this overall call by the Lord: How do we financially support our diocesan Church, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City? First, by the parishes’ tithe: each parish tithes (10%) its ordinary income to the diocesan Church. **“Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you”** (Genesis 28:22).

Thank you for your generosity and sacrifice! However, this tithe from the parishes accounts for less than half of our budget needs. Other sources of income for our diocesan Church are grants, almsgiving, and investment income.

Proclaim 365 is our new appeal for financial support of our diocesan Church. I ask you to consider a gift of almsgiving to our diocese. **"Give alms ... for where your treasure is, there also will your heart be"** (Luke 12:33-34). Our Proclaim 365 petition can work like the seeds in the Lord’s Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20). A monthly gift of \$30, 60, 100 or another amount can bear great fruit in the Lord’s harvest in our diocese. Our diocesan Church provides ministries for the diocese as a whole that individual parishes cannot, such as seminarian formation, summer youth ministries, tribunal tasks, care for infirmed priests, Pastoral Ministry Formation, and many others.

See articles in the Southwest Kansas Catholic for these and other examples of the diocesan Church in action.

Our beautiful Catholic faith in the Risen Jesus and His Church is based on unity, as Jesus taught **“that they all be one”** (John 17:21). May we unify our families and our parish Churches with our diocesan Church through Proclaim 365. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this appeal during this Easter season and beyond. May the Risen Lord be with you and your families. Jesus loves you so much!

+ *Bishop John Brungardt*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Appointed to the task

We see them in some of our parishes standing near the presider at Mass: men dressed sort of like priests but with a diagonal or odd-looking stole. What are deacons for, we may wonder? Deacons assist priests in visiting the sick and provide service in the parish community. They can preach, witness marriages, perform Baptisms, and preside at funeral services outside of Mass. While they're ordained clergy, they may also be married and serve without pay. The permanent diaconate is a special call for those "filled with the Spirit and wisdom." Know someone who fits this description? Encourage him to apply. (Preparetheword)

QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA
Designados para la tarea

Los vemos en algunas de nuestras parroquias junto al celebrante de la Misa: hombres vestidos más o menos como los sacerdotes, pero con una estola diagonal o de aspecto extraño. ¿Para qué sirven los diáconos? Los diáconos ayudan a los sacerdotes a visitar a los enfermos y prestan servicio en la comunidad parroquial. Pueden predicar, ser testigos de matrimonios, realizar bautismos y presidir funerales fuera de la misa. Aunque son clérigos ordenados, también pueden estar casados y servir sin sueldo. El diaconado permanente es un llamado especial para quienes están "llenos del Espíritu y de sabiduría." ¿Conoces alguien a quien le quepa esta descripción? Anímalo a presentarse.