



# Bringing Home the Word

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
August 10, 2025

## Live By Faith

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**T**he story of Abraham is one of extraordinary blessing. However, his story is also one of extraordinary faith. At major points of his life, Abraham had no idea what was in store for him or his family. He was directed to leave his home and become a wandering herder. He was an immigrant in a foreign land, bereft of social support structures. He was promised descendants but waited many years for that promise to be realized. Once he had an heir, he was then told to sacrifice that son of promise without any assurances

of a favorable future. Time and again, Abraham was asked to live by faith.

The phrase “seeing is believing” is misleading. It is really an expression of skepticism that means, “I won’t believe it unless I see it.” However, true belief means that we accept something even though we don’t see it, don’t understand it. That is a very difficult way for most of us to live. Yet, live like this we must, whether we are believers or unbelievers, because so much of life is beyond our control or understanding.

So, how do we learn to live by faith? We have something that Abraham did not have. We have his story to encourage us. In that story, we see that again and again he stepped forward in faith, and God brought things together. If God did this in Abraham’s life, surely God can and will do it in ours. We must only live by faith. †



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## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor... Their viewpoints...are vital if we are to see the world through God’s eyes.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



## Sunday Readings

### Wisdom 18:6–9

In secret, the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice and carried out with one mind the divine institution.

### Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–19 or Hebrews 11:1–2, 8–12

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

### Luke 12:32–48 or Luke 12:35–40

[Jesus said,] “Sell your belongings and give alms.... For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- When have I acted on faith in God without knowing what would happen?
- Am I being called to act on faith today?



# Angry in August

Fr. Bob Pagliari, CSsR, PhD

**A**re humans more irritable in the late days of summer than during other months of the year? The ancients certainly believed that the rising temperatures caused a rise in tempers. The so-called “dog

days” of summer made people and animals angry and wild. Climate aside, how “Christian” are we when it comes to dealing with the deadly sin of anger—our own or others’?

**Solution #1:** Walk away, even if it’s only for a jaunt around the block or just stepping back for a few seconds to take a deep breath and count to ten. This brief “time out” gives the angry person a chance to cool off. You don’t want to say something you’ll regret later. It is impossible to argue with people who are angry, because angry people believe they are right.

**Solution #2:** Switch perspectives by peering through the other person’s lens for a while. You cannot adopt another person’s viewpoint and also be angry with that person. When you are mad at someone, as soon as you look at the world through that person’s eyes, your anger diminishes.

**Solution #3:** Recognize and respect where the other person is coming from. More than anything, angry people want to feel understood. This does not necessarily mean agreeing, but it does mean acknowledging and appreciating the person’s experience of the situation.

**Solution #4:** Accept misplaced anger as a compliment rather than a threat. Anger is a socially repugnant emotion. If adults allow themselves to regress into tantrums in your presence, this may mean that they trust you.

**Solution #5:** Pray—not as a last resort, but for continual support. Prayer works for two very good reasons. The first reason is supernatural. God hears our prayers and answers them by giving us the graces we need when we need them. The second reason is natural. When we pray, our concentration shifts from selfish to selfless. †

Adapted from *Holy Homework: Putting Our Interior Faith Into Exterior Practice* by Fr. Bob Pagliari, CSsR, Liguori Publications (828638). To order call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “From Debate to Doctrine: The Evolution of Christian Creeds in the Early Church” by Christopher M. Bellitto

The Church in any period operates according to an ancient working principle. In Latin, that principle is *lex orandi, lex credendi*—the law of praying is the law of believing. How Christians pray reflects and shapes what Christians believe. So, to get a sense of how early Christians tried to describe or explain what they believed, historians and theologians must turn to how they prayed, especially by looking at creeds and other theological statements that came out of the first general councils. What’s fascinating about this period is how statements of doctrine developed: questions led to answers, which were sometimes incomplete and led in turn to new questions, more answers, and further clarifications.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) • 800-325-9521



Generous God, we give you thanks for all our blessings and dare to ask for one thing more: a grateful heart. We pray always in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 11–16

**Monday, St. Clare:**  
Dt 10:12–22 / Mt 17:22–27  
**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Dt 31:1–8 / Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14  
**Wednesday, Weekday:**  
Dt 34:1–12 / Mt 18:15–20

**Thursday, St. Maximilian Kolbe:**  
Jos 3:7–10a, 11, 13–17 / Mt 18:21–19:1  
**Friday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:**  
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56  
**Saturday, Weekday:** Jos 24:14–29 / Mt 19:13–15