



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 18, 2026

Who's Calling?

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

God called Isaiah: "You are my servant... I will make you a light to the nations" (Isaiah 49:3, 6). God called John the Baptist: "The one who sent me to baptize with water" (John 1:33). God called St. Paul: "Called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:1). And Paul says God calls us: We are "called to be holy" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Given that call, the question is, "What are we called to do with our lives?"

Frederick Buechner, an author, suggests that we are called to wherever our deep hunger and the world's great need meet. As he explains, the world's

great need may be to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, but if we become depressed helping the poor, that is not where God wants us to be. On the other hand, we may love designing sandcastles, but the world has no great need for sandcastles, so that surely is not what God calls us to do. Rather, God calls us to the place where what we love doing and what the world desperately needs intersect.

Adults are often inclined to ask children what they want to be or do when they grow up. Perhaps asking them what they think God wants them to do might be a question laced with greater wisdom. To turn the question may call forth a more thoughtful answer. †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.

John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."



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A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are longing for authentic relationships and guides in life. Hence, it is important that the Christian community be farsighted in discerning the challenges of today's world and in nurturing the desire for faith present in the heart of every man and woman.

MESSAGE TO SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MAY 28, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What is God calling you to do now?
- Has God's call changed over the years?



Restlessness as a Starting Point

Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP

The first chapter of St. Augustine’s Confessions begins, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” This phrase is not only the famed opening of one of the foundational works of Christian spirituality but also, above all, an existential confession, the heartbeat of a soul that seeks meaning. Generation after generation, those who have felt the call of God as a loving unrest not calmed by superficial answers or dulled by easy certainties have recognized themselves in these words. Robert Francis Prevost also recognized himself in them, naturally and deeply. He perceived that same call not as a burden, but as a promise of fulfillment, and he lived it out by choosing life in a religious community.

Prevost did not enter the Order of Saint Augustine because of youthful impulse or passing enthusiasm. He was moved by a deeper, almost silent, intuition: the certainty that God is not

found in the noise of the world nor in immediate success, but in the deepest beat of the human heart. That inner conviction led him to embrace the Augustinian spiritual tradition not as a relic of the past, but as a living, possible, and necessary path.

From an early age, Prevost understood that the Augustinian way of life is indeed a path, but not a solitary one. It is a journey made at the pace of others, like pilgrims who do not rush, knowing that meaning lies in the path shared. The Augustinian is not an isolated monk or a lone seeker of perfection. He is, above all, a brother—a companion in the search for God. A man who builds community through truth and charity. †

God is not found in the noise of the world, but in the deepest beat of the human heart.

From Pope Leo XIV: *Restless Heart, Faithful Shepherd* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP, Liguori Publications (829000). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “*Many Faces, One Church: The Blessing and Challenge of Diversity*” by vãnThanh Nguyễn, SVD

The Catholic Church in the United States is experiencing a profound demographic shift as communities of non-European origin are on the rise. We are living in a time when ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity is more evident and intense than ever. Diversity is not something to overcome, but is an essential component to foster. This can be an hour of great opportunity or an hour of tragic disaster. As a people of God, we must learn to pray, work, and live together as an intercultural (not just multicultural) Church in which diversity provides an opportunity for growth and enrichment rather than separation and disunity. Indeed, the Church is experiencing the dawn of a new day. We do not need to go far to find people “from every tribe and tongue.” It’s both a blessing and a challenge!

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org.



Creator God, help us to find holy balance as we seek to take care of others and ourselves. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 19–24

Monday, Weekday:
1 Sm 15:16–23 / Mk 2:18–22
Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Sm 16:1–13 / Mk 2:23–28
Wednesday, St. Agnes:
1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 / Mk 3:7–12
Friday, Weekday: 1 Sm 24:3–21 / Mk 3:13–19
Saturday, St. Francis de Sales:
2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27 / Mk 3:20–21



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