



Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
February 15, 2026

What's In Your Heart?

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

In the past fifty years, there seems to have been a quiet but noticeable shift in the lived faith of Catholics in the pews. None of it has been officially or formally decreed, though it might very well be the natural unfolding of what the Second Vatican Council was about. It seems to have simply happened, perhaps by the workings of the Holy Spirit. I would highlight four common shifts.

Our faith seems to have moved from a primary concern with doctrine, or what we believe, to spirituality, or how

we live out what we believe as people of faith and recognize where God is in our lives.

There is a greater focus on what is in our hearts. This suggests that while actions are important, where our actions originate and what they say about who we are can also be important in trying to understand why we do what we do.

We pray differently. While the rosary and devotional prayer are nurturing to the faith of many, we have also discovered forms of meditation, quiet reflection, and praying with sacred Scripture.

Confession no longer seems to be only about reporting the kinds and numbers of sins; it is also about what is in our hearts and how we find ourselves relating to others. We confess both actions and attitudes that are destructive rather than moral lists.

It seems that all of this echoes this week's gospel, which focuses on divisive anger, lustful lifestyles, and faking the truth, that is, what is in our hearts. †

Sunday Readings

Sirach 15:15–20

Before everyone are life and death, whichever they choose will be given them.

1 Corinthians 2:6–10

"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, [is] what God has prepared for those who love him."

Matthew 5:17–37 or 5:20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

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A Word from Pope Leo XIV

The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- How is your faith different today than it was ten years ago?
- How would you like it to be different ten years from today?



Forging a Conscience

Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSsR

We have an obligation to follow our conscience and form our conscience well.

Our thinking must be correct in order to make a good choice.

The conscience has three primary functions: practical vision, judgment about what to do, and judgment of whether we are behaving as a good person. With a well-formed conscience, we see the difference between good and evil behaviors; we judge what we should and should not do in specific situations; and, finally, we evaluate if we have behaved as a good or evil person. Conscience operates both before and after we choose to act, pointing the way to a right decision and, later, judging that action.

We are not born with a fully working conscience. We must learn how to use our conscience correctly over a lifetime. Conscience is only as effective as what it has to work with. We reason on the basis of knowledge. Correct reasoning requires us to gather correct information in order to make a correct decision about our actions.

After the choice is made, a well-formed conscience evaluates the decision. To learn from our mistakes, we have to recognize them as mistakes, admit our errors, repent for having made them, and act to undo any damage we may have caused to others.

Practical reasoning and proper conscience formation require listening to other people in humility, listening to more than two thousand

years of Church teachings on human experience, and, above all, listening to the voice of God. When working properly, the conscience hears the voice of God speaking to us at the core of our being. In forming and following our conscience, we encounter God. †

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From "Morality Matters," Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSsR, *Liguorian*, October 2019. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "The Church Walks with Migrants" by Fr. Michael McAndrew, CSsR

Pope Leo XIV clearly speaks of the Church's responsibility toward migrants, and also the migrant's gift to the Church. In his message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (October 4, 2025), he calls migrants "missionaries of hope." He said, "Many migrants, refugees, and displaced persons are privileged witnesses of hope. Indeed, they demonstrate this daily through their resilience and trust in God, as they face adversity.... In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope.... Catholic migrants and refugees can become missionaries of hope in the countries that welcome them, forging new paths of faith where the message of Jesus Christ has not yet arrived or initiating interreligious dialogue based on everyday life and the search for common values."

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.



Abiding God, may we be faithful to the law of love your Son revealed to the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 16–21

Monday, Weekday:

Jas 1:1–11 / Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday, Weekday:

Jas 1:12–18 / Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday, Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12–18 /

2 Cor 5:20—6:2 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday, Thursday after Ash Wednesday:

Dt 30:15–20 / Lk 9:22–25

Friday, Friday after Ash Wednesday:

Is 58:1–9a / Mt 9:14–15

Saturday, Saturday after Ash Wednesday:

Is 58:9b–14 / Lk 5:27–32



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