



Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)
May 10, 2026

Apron Strings

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

There are moments when we realize the baton has been passed to us, and now we must conduct the symphony of our lives. One such moment may be when both of our parents have died. “They” say we never fully grow up until that occurs, for from that time on, we can no longer go home. I know of a daughter who received a gift from her mother when the daughter moved out on her own. Inside the package, the daughter discovered a pair of apron strings, a symbol of her break with home. At various times, life hands

us a bountiful serving of responsibility as we commit to a vocation or, for many, become parents for the first time. On such occasions, the future may weigh heavily upon us.

This week’s gospel is a farewell speech of sorts. Given to the Twelve on the night before his passion and death, Jesus promises he will not leave us orphans and that the Spirit will be given to us to do what we must do.

There have been many times when life has unfolded for me into new circumstances and life roles—occasions often filled with anxiety and sometimes even fear. I usually found I could deal with such realities by asking myself what would be the worst that could happen, and, if it did, could I handle it? Every time, I found myself realizing I could handle the worst. Importantly, the ability to do what needs doing always seems to flow from God’s Spirit that is given to each of us. If our faith in God is alive in us, our spiritual apron strings are never severed. †

Sunday Readings

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

Unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people.

1 Peter 3:15–18

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.

John 14:15–21

[Jesus said,] “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.... You know it, because it remains with you.”

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do what needs doing
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A Word from Pope Leo XIV

The Lord wanted us in this time filled with challenges that, at times, seem to exceed our strength. We are called to embrace these challenges, to interpret them evangelically, to experience them as opportunities to bear witness. Let us not flee from them! Pastoral commitment, like that of study, become for us a school to learn how to build the kingdom of God in today’s complex and challenging history.

ADDRESS TO THE CLERGY OF ROME,
JUNE 12, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Has the Spirit of God ever helped you face a daunting responsibility?
- How did you do?



When Your Child Wanders

Christine Gibson

Moms usually have the role of Chief Family Coaxer. When children are very young, we coax them into putting on their jammies, picking up their blocks, and taking one more bite of their dinner. Later, we coax them into doing their homework, practicing their instruments, and writing thank-you notes.

But what about when our children turn into young adults who lose their faith or lose interest in their faith? It's disheartening, upsetting, and worrisome. Should we coax them into going to church? Can a mom cajole a child into an active faith life? Must we nag them into praying? Can we argue them into the sacraments? No. What we can do is look to St. Monica as our role model. She prayed diligently for her difficult husband and mother-in-law until they converted from paganism to Catholicism. When her son, Augustine, resisted converting to the Christian faith, she prayed. And she prayed. Then she prayed some more. For seventeen years, she prayed for this wayward child. When she wasn't praying herself, she

was reaching out for help and asking priests to pray for her son, too. (Some sources say that local priests started to duck away when they saw Monica coming.)

Eventually, she befriended St. Ambrose, whose preaching was instrumental in her son's conversion. Shortly before her death, St. Monica witnessed St. Ambrose baptize this wayward son. From heaven, she watched as this same son became a bishop, great theologian, and doctor of the Church.

Saint Monica's constant prayers for a son who was far from God can inspire us in our own prayerful parenting. Though we may never see our children turn down the path we hope for them, we know that God hears our prayers. †

When our children lose interest in their faith, look to St. Monica.

From *Saints on Call: Everyday Devotions for Moms* by Christine Gibson, Liguori Publications (820342). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "A Catholic Vision for Family Life" by Dr. Gregory Popcak

Family life has changed radically over the past few decades, and there's no denying that Catholics have been caught up in the cultural whirlwind. Even intact, faithful families are negatively affected by our cultural situation. For the most part, family life has been redefined as a collection of individuals living under the same roof and sharing a data plan. Even so-called "normal" families struggle under the weight of the cultural expectation that extracurricular activities should now provide the socialization and sense of meaning that family life used to impart. Parents and children of even the healthiest families are tempted to pursue activities such as work, sports, and technology over emotional and spiritual intimacy through family dinners, family time, and family prayer and worship.

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.



Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, inspire us to lead holy, faith-filled, generous lives. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 11–16

Monday, Easter Weekday: Acts 16:11–15
/ Jn 15:26–16:4a

Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 16:22–34
/ Jn 16:5–11

Wednesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 17:15,
22–18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

Thursday, St. Matthias: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26
/ Jn 15:9–17

Friday, Easter Weekday: Acts 18:9–18
/ Jn 16:20–23

Saturday, Easter Weekday: Acts 18:23–28
/ Jn 16:23b–28



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