Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 4, 2026

When God Daydreamed Us

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

At the end of the Broadway musical Camelot, King Arthur finds himself confronted by the fact that his dream of the Round Table and justice for all has died without having borne the fruit he had hoped. A young boy, Tom of Warwick, comes up to him asking if he might be dubbed a knight. Arthur does so, then commissions him to go forth and tell the story of Camelot to everyone he meets, all with the hope that someone someday will dare to try again to create a world with equal justice for all.

We all live with dreams of what we might be, of what life might be. They seldom turn out the way we had imagined, yet what would life be without such dreams? They push us into new futures. They create hope and new possibilities. They bring meaning to our lives.

The parable of the landowner and his vineyard is really a story of God and the dream God has for us. It is a story of how God withholds nothing from caring for his vineyard that it might bear fruit, that is, from trying to make his dream for us a reality, even to the point of giving his Son over to that dream.

Dreams never come easy. If they did, they would not be dreams. It was so for those who founded this nation in 1776. It is so for parents with dreams for their children. It is so as well for God, who dreams dreams for us in Jesus. ✝

God withholds nothing from caring for his vineyard that it might bear fruit.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 5:1–7

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, the people of Judah, his cherished plant.

Philippians 4:6–9

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

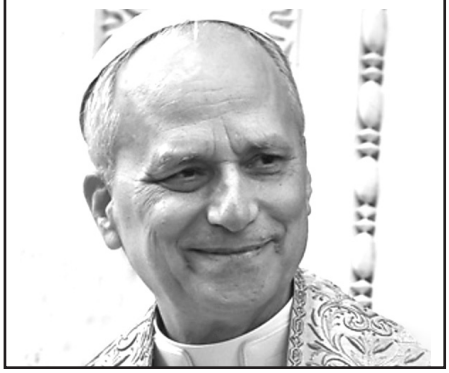
Matthew 21:33–43

[Jesus said,] "I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

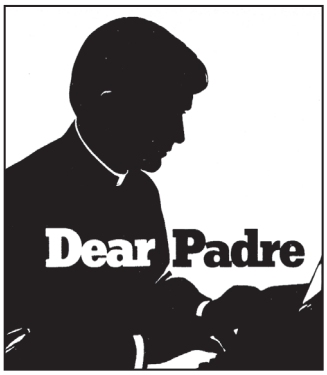
"Pray with the Pope" video message, March 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do my dreams reflect God's dreams for me?
- Do my children know God has dreams for them?

© 2026 Liguori Publications, a Ministry of the Redemptorists | Liguori.org



Dear Padre,
My friend is deeply involved in her faith, but I struggle with our friendship because I don't like how she treats her pets. I don't understand how someone who values religion so highly can show so little care for animals. What should I do?

Franciscan Friar Kevin Mackin writes, "The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love" ("Why We Bless Animals," *Catholic Update*). Because of this strong bond between humans and sentient creatures, it's especially difficult to witness their mistreatment, either through neglect (such as failing to provide sufficient food, water, shelter, or veterinary care) or direct physical abuse (a violation of anti-cruelty laws and a criminal offense in all fifty states). Studies show that owning pets offers us companionship and emotional support; in turn, these qualities can foster in us greater empathy and compassion toward others. Yet, while pets may greatly benefit our health and well-being, owning them comes with a serious obligation and moral responsibility. Vulnerable pets depend on humans for adequate care and protection. At times, some pet owners can be overwhelmed by their responsibility to provide proper care; others may even be unaware that they are treating their pets inappropriately. Out of concern for both your friend and her pets, consider a non-critical, non-confrontational approach to discuss your observations and to offer assistance. ✝

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***.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "*Real Presence in the Eucharist*" by Jeffrey D. VonLehmen

We often think of spiritual as invisible. But who wants an invisible relationship with a loved one? Consider this example. A father leaves work early on a weekday, drives five hours to another city to be present at his son's college basketball game, and then drives home the same night. The father arrives home about 5 am, catches an hour of sleep, then goes to work. He does this often. Perhaps it would be enough to tell his son over the phone that he is thinking about him and cheering and praying for him. But think how much more it means to the child that his father is not just there in spirit—he is there in flesh. He is providing a real presence for his son. What a big difference!

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.

PRAYER

Creator God, quiet our minds and open our hearts that we may become the holy person you created us to be. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 5–10

Monday,
Weekday: Gal 1:6–12 / Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday,
Weekday: Gal 1:13–24 / Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday,
Our Lady of the Rosary: Gal 2:1–2, 7–14 / Lk 11:1–4

Thursday,
Weekday: Gal 3:1–5 / Lk 11:5–13

Friday,
Weekday: Gal 3:7–14 / Lk 11:15–26

Saturday,
Weekday: Gal 3:22–29 / Lk 11:27–28

Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry
Catholic. Pastoral. Trusted.

© 2026 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, revised edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.