

Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
November 15, 2026

The Edges: Where God Works

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Those who are willing to take great risks are often the ones who give birth to dreams of growth and new life. Often, it is at the scary edge of life where such growth ultimately takes place. In 1776, those who sparked a revolution and risked their personal wealth founded a new nation. President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, when many were urging him not to do so, thus opening the door of freedom to those who found it locked. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela risked speaking out against apartheid, was imprisoned for twenty-seven years, and was eventually freed to become the leader of a new South Africa.

So often those who risk to make life new are those who are living at the growing edge of God's reign; they are instruments of God, bringing creation to new life.

In the parable in this week's gospel, three individuals are entrusted with a treasure of great worth. The third person backs away from any risk, burying the money because he is stifled by fear. God's dynamic presence, on the other hand, grows when individuals risk doing the right thing in spite of the consequences, when they are willing to speak an unpopular truth, when they take a stand for those on the edges of society, when they break down the barriers of racism and oppression. In the end, we need to listen less to our fears and more to our dreams. It's where God does God's best work: at the edges. ✝

We need to listen less to our fears and more to our dreams.

Sunday Readings

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; / the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. / Acclaim her for the work of her hands.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.

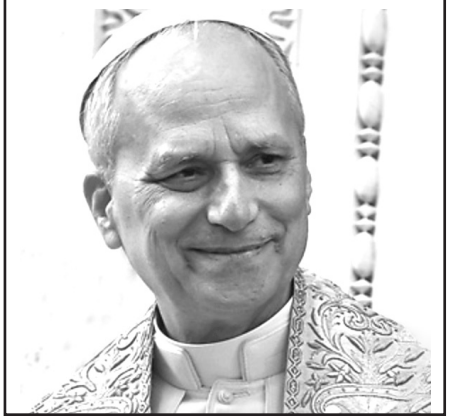
Matthew 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

[Jesus said,] "It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them."

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

To those who seek to alleviate the conditions of the poorest, I express my gratitude.… You know well that the question of the poor leads back to the essence of our faith, for they are the very flesh of Christ.… "Where the world sees threats, [the Church] sees children; where walls are built, [the Church] builds bridges."

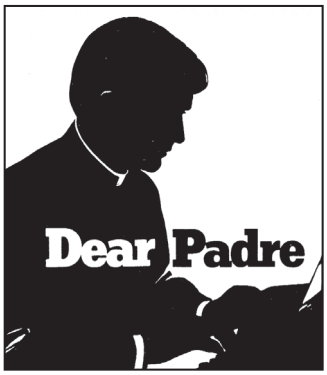
HOMILY, ROME, NOVEMBER 16, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I listen to my fears or my dreams?
- Have I risked bringing about new life?

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



Dear Padre,
My grandmother says Catholics used to fast from midnight until they received Communion. When did the fasting time change to only one hour, and why?

The ancient discipline of fasting before Communion became a universal practice by the fifth century. Until 1953, those who would receive holy Communion refrained from consuming food, water, and medicine from midnight to the time of Communion. In 1953 and 1957, Pope Pius XII reduced the fast from food to three hours and from water for one hour (*Christus Dominus* and *Sacram Communionem*).

In 1966, Pope St. Paul VI further reduced the fast to one hour and allowed water and medicine at any time (*Paenitemini*). In 1973, he reduced the fast for the sick and elderly to fifteen minutes before Communion when one hour is prohibitive (*Immensae Caritatis*).

The loosening of the restrictions was in no way intended to lessen the reverence for the holy Eucharist. The changes were made to allow as many Catholics as possible to receive the Eucharist, which can be difficult when priests are in short supply. For the same reason, *Immensae Caritatis* also allowed the practice of having extraordinary ministers give Communion. Despite the changes to the Communion fast, unity and uniformity have been maintained. And, of course, Catholics are free to fast before Communion beyond the duration and degree currently prescribed. ✝

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 *Seeing Family Life as Holy, Warts and All* by Mitch Finley

Sometimes people think they need to get away from their families to find God. True, it's important to build in opportunities for spouses, parents, and others to have time for prayerful solitude. But most of the time, we'll find God in the unpredictability of daily life. God is in washing the pots and pans, as St. Teresa of Ávila remarked. Difficult as it may be to accept, God is in the most tiring and painful situations as well as in moments of comfort and joy.

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

Gracious God, make us mindful of our blessings and increase in us the gift of gratitude, which makes possible a generous life of service. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 16–21

Monday, Weekday, Rv 1:1–4; 2:1–5 / Lk 18:35–43

Tuesday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Rv 3:1–6, 14–22 / Lk 19:1–10

Wednesday, Weekday, Rv 4:1–11 / Lk 19:11–28

Thursday, Weekday, Rv 5:1–10 / Lk 19:41–44

Friday, Weekday, Rv 10:8–11 / Lk 19:45–48

Saturday, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Rv 11:4–12 / Lk 20:27–40

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.