

[Jesus said,] “Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.”

MARK 10:43–44

Like a Sponge

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If I hit you and you hit me back, I may very well hit you again, this time harder. If you decide to hit me back harder as well, I may pull out my knife from fear and for self-defense. That may cause you to pull out your knife, thereby moving me to arm myself with a gun, which then compels you to do likewise. And thus, the evil escalates. If, however, when I hit you the first time, you do not retaliate by hitting me, the evil ends. It is absorbed by you, and life is better because of your decision.

It was Daniel Berrigan who noted that the role of the Christian is to absorb evil. When we absorb someone else’s evil, when it ends with us, we literally save that person from embodying more evil. In effect, we ransom that person by our own suffering. “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). In other words, we can be most like Jesus when we feel we are being used or abused, yet do not retaliate in kind.

In all such instances, it is not a matter of allowing someone to pummel and eviscerate our bodies and spirits. It is not about being defenseless. It is not a matter of refusing to resist. It is about resisting in a way that will not create greater violence and evil. It is the way of Christ. ●

Reflect

Is it possible to respond to evil without escalating it among individuals or among nations?

Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

4125 St. Francis Village Rd., Crowley, TX 76036

<https://stfrancisvillagecatholicchapel.com>

(817) 292-3274

Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

REFLECTIONS

To Do a Little Good

Although my primary role as a retired priest is to celebrate Mass and provide pastoral care for the Catholics of Saint Francis Village, I am called upon frequently to assist in other parishes and with other ministries. For example, as many of you know, I have had the pleasure of serving the Diocesan Deaf Ministry for some 25 years and celebrate Mass with them in American Sign Language on the first Sunday of each month.

I have assisted with daily Mass at the convent of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur located on Fort Worth's South Side. While waiting to celebrate daily Mass there in the absence of their regular chaplain, I noted a book about the Order and their work in the Southwest. They came to the North Texas area over a century ago at a time when our Diocese of Fort Worth did not even exist and was still part of the Dallas Diocese. The Sisters came to serve as teachers in our Catholic schools and as pastoral ministers in our parishes. But as the book underscores, at a more fundamental level, their purpose was "to do a little good." In light of the tremendous good which this religious Order has brought to our Diocese and others throughout Texas and the world – they have foundations in Africa, South America as well as Belgium, where the community was initially founded – to suggest that they have only done "a little good" seems an understatement.

But my intention in writing this reflection is not to focus on the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur per se, although they are an excellent starting point. It is rather to pose the challenge of discipleship. The simple but profound statement of what the SSMN's intended with regard to ministry is the true focus, not only for them but for all of us as Christian disciples. To do a little good. To do it every day. to do it throughout the years. To do it with regard to every person encountered. To do it without cost

or expectation of reward or praise. To do it in the name of Christ. That is the essence of discipleship flowing from an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

While it is certainly true that most of us lack the ability and the resources to make dramatic changes to the world about us, there is no one who lacks the ability "to do a little good." Perhaps it is a smiling face for someone who perceives only stormy weather. Perhaps it is a helping hand to someone in need. Perhaps it is a listening ear to the person who needs to share from the heart. The possibilities are endless, and they are around us every day of our lives. We have only to see them, to allow God to work in and through us, in order that we, too, might "do a little good."

From Father Ken



*Like the Sisters of
Saint Mary of Namur,
let us all "do a little good"*

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary time has arrived. This week we have a memorial for Saint John Paul the II on Tuesday October 22nd; for Saint John of Capistrano on Wednesday 23rd; and Saint Anthony Mary Claret Bishop on Thursday October 24th.

I discovered a quote from Mathew Kelly in **Restoring Happiness** that I thought I would share with you:

You are a perfect mix of talents and abilities to fulfill the mission God has in mind for you. There is no point in worrying about what talents and abilities other people have. If you don't have them, you don't need them, for your mission.

Our SFV Catholic Chapel - sponsored Picnic is finally here this Sunday! Please join us from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at the PAX Center for good food, good music, and lots of games. A special thanks goes out to Julie Miller whose hard work and dedication made this event possible.

Tuesday October 22nd at 7:00 PM in the PAX Center is your opportunity to assist us in making 500 Sandwiches for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile cause.

As mentioned last week, we ask that you please fill out the forms available in the entrance of the Chapel to update your address, phone number, or email address and let us know if you would like to volunteer for Chapel Ministries. Cat is in the process of updating SFV Catholic Chapel attendee and volunteer records. All completed forms can be placed in the suggestion box or brought to the Chapel Office.

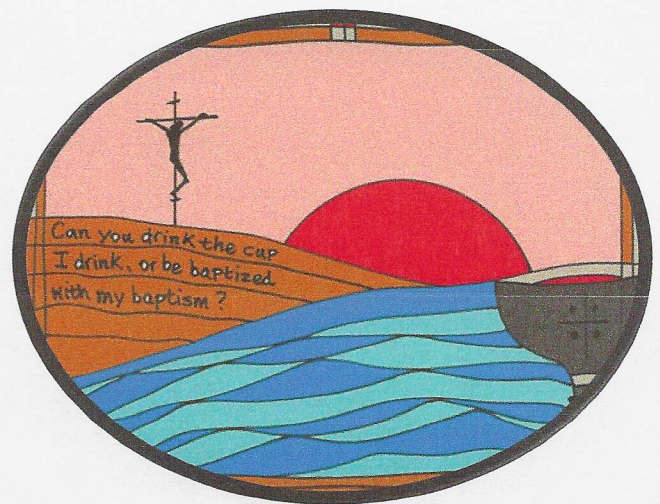
In September we were able to donate \$5,443.50 to various Catholic charities and those needing assistance in SFV. In addition we donated \$500.00 to the SFV Food Bank. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and stewardship.

In closing, I received a newsletter from Sister Theresita of the Holy Family of Nazareth. She shared that while on vacation she was able to

visit a Mosque during a time for prayer. One person asked if people could pray at home or if they needed to come to the Mosque. The answer that was given was a blessing for Sister Theresita to hear: *It is fine to pray at home, but so much better to come together to pray in community.* She said she was ecstatic. As Catholics, we have been teaching this all along.

May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*God Give You Peace
Mike Pierson*



Mass Intentions	
Oct. 20, 2024	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Oct. 21, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Jack Parkhurst By Patty Parkhurst
Oct. 22, 2024	Father Bob Strittmatter
Oct. 23, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Jared LaFleur By Jack & Genie Kearney
Oct. 24, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Mabel Groh By Jim Groh
Oct. 25, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Andy Anderson By Bill Ruzicka
Oct. 26, 2024	Repose of the Soul of Deacon Ricardo Chavez By Deacon Howard Herring (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)

Dear Padre,

I read about bishops with different titles: coadjutor, auxiliary, ordinary. What is the difference between all of these bishops?

All bishops in the Church are ordained in the same way. Bishops are the only people who can ordain other people in the Church. Bishops also have authority regarding Church matters. A bishop who is the *ordinary* of a diocese is the head of that diocese. He has the authority to guide and direct matters in the diocese. Like all other bishops, he has the responsibility to teach and preach in the name of the Church.

A bishop who is an *auxiliary* is assigned to help the ordinary of the diocese. His responsibilities are given to him by the ordinary. In most circumstances, the auxiliary will help in the administration of the diocese and celebrate the sacraments within the diocese.

A *coadjutor* bishop is assigned to aid the ordinary of the diocese. He usually has the right to succeed the ordinary once he retires or dies in office. In some circumstances, coadjutor bishops may be given authority that is normally reserved to the ordinary.

The differences between these bishops are the tasks they perform and the authority they have within a diocese. However, as bishops, they all receive the same ordination. ●



VATICAN/CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

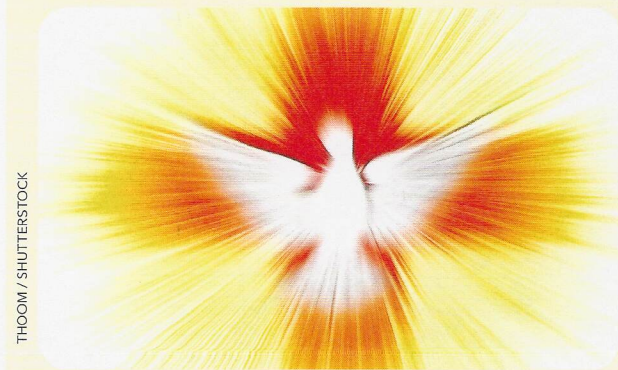
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
October 21	October 22	October 23	October 24	October 25	October 26	October 27
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Thirtieth Sunday
Eph 2:1-10	Eph 2:12-22	Eph 3:2-12	Eph 3:14-21	Eph 4:1-6	Eph 4:7-16	in Ordinary Time
Lk 12:13-21	Lk 12:35-38	Lk 12:39-48	Lk 12:49-53	Lk 12:54-59	Lk 13:1-9	Jer 31:7-9
						Heb 5:1-6
						Mk 10:46-52

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus asks us to immerse ourselves. And how should we immerse ourselves? Compassionately in the lives of those we meet.... Today, let us ask the Holy Spirit to renew the grace of baptism in us, that immersion in Jesus, in his way of being, to be more like servants, to be servants like he has been with us.

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 17, 2021



THOOM / SHUTTERSTOCK