

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH

8100 Chapman Avenue, Stanton CA 90680 | (714) 893-2766 | www.stpolycarp.org

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith-based Catholic community whose members are enriched by the celebration of the Sacraments and opportunities to deepen our prayer lives. Guided by the Word of God and family values, we strive always to be a beacon of light for the lost, the lonely, the marginalized, and all those seeking the truth as we walk in the footsteps of those first disciples of Jesus and our patron St. Polycarp.

CLERGY

PASTOR

Rev. Viet Peter Ho

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Nicolaus Duy Thai

Rev. Luis Segura

TRANSITIONAL DEACON

Dcn. Francis Ang

DEACONS

Dcn. Ramiro Lopez

Dcn. Larry Leone

Dcn. Davis Tri Do

Dcn. Juan Ochoa

SUPPORT STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER

Tom H. Ma

FAITH FORMATION (ENGLISH/SPANISH)

Sister Jessica Corral

FAITH FORMATION (VIETNAMESE)

Sister Mary Anne Thiên
Hương Nguyễn

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Sister Anna Anh Trâm Trần

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Kara Ford

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Joseph Do

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

5:00 PM English

7:00 PM Vietnamese

Sunday

7:30 AM English

9:00 AM Spanish

11:00 AM English

1:00 PM Spanish

4:00 PM Vietnamese

6:00 PM Spanish

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 AM English (Mon-Fri)

8:30 AM English (Mon-Sat)

6:30 PM Spanish (Mon)

6:30 PM Vietnamese (Fri)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

9:00 AM - 10 AM (Fri)

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Sat)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

7:15 PM (Monday)

9:00 AM (Friday)

3:30 PM (Saturday)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM,

1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Sunday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

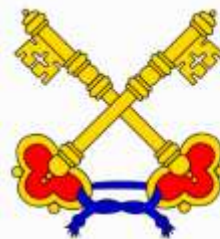
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept."

John 14:16-17



POPE'S INTENTION - MAY

That Everyone Might Have Food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

info@stpolycarp.org
BULLETIN: editor@stpolycarp.org

May 10, 2026

**MASS INTENTIONS/INTENCIONES DE MISA/
XIN Ý LỄ CẦU NGUYÊN**

Saturday, May 9, 2026

5:00 PM Beto☩ & Benito☩ Ramirez;
William Emanuel Saligan☩

7:00 PM Peter Viet Ha☩

Sunday, May 10, 2026

7:30 AM All Souls in Purgatory☩; Maria Beo Pham☩

9:00 AM Leonor Tovar Rodriguez☩ &
Francisco Jimenez Tovar☩; Luiz Escobar☩

11:00 AM Andrew Rubio☩; Lentz Sy Go☩

1:00 PM Maria de la Luz Valencia Mendoza☩;
Maria Eugenia Reynoso☩

4:00 PM Ana Le☩

6:00 PM Adan Colin Prado☩;
Erick Gerardo Alcantar (Birthday)

Monday, May 11, 2026

6:30 AM All Souls☩

8:30 AM Domingo Salazar☩; Esteban Ramirez☩ &
Alfonso Ramirez Sr. ☩

6:30 PM Jesus Villanueva☩; Garcia Escobar Family

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

6:30 AM Phero☩; Joseph Hoang Nguyen☩ &
Thanksgiving and Peace

8:30 AM Jocelyn Torres Gaspar☩; Gertrude &
Raymond Reynolds

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

6:30 AM Rodrigo DeJesus Montenegro☩ &
Regina Velasco☩

8:30 AM Jesus Rodrigo☩ & Maria Cruz☩ &
Joel Rodrigo☩; Theresa Pham Thu Hoai☩

Thursday, May 14, 2026

6:30 AM Special Family Intentions;
Thanks be to God's Mercy

8:30 AM Conversion of Itzel miller;
Berenice Chino (Health) &
Clara Valladares (Health)

Friday, May 15, 2026

6:30 AM Gerardo Munoz☩ & Alberto Munoz☩ &
Carmen Vazquez☩;
Raquel Figueroa Aguirre☩

8:30 AM John C. Norton☩; Catarina Hong Pham☩

6:30 PM Thanks be to God's Mercy

Saturday, May 16, 2026

8:30 AM Theresa Pham Thu Hoai☩

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21
- Monday:** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a
- Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Ps 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17
- Friday:** Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28
- Sunday:** Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

PSA 2026 REPORT
AS OF 05/01/2026
PLEDGES RECEIVED: 360
AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$165,643.00
TOTAL PAID: \$119,301.00
OUR 2026 PSA GOAL: \$109,760.00

Thank You!

SAINT POLYCARP CATHOLIC CHURCH
www.stpolycarp.org



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



May 2/3 Masses	\$ 21,216.00
May 2/3 Online	\$ 1,828.33
Total collection:	\$ 23,044.33
2nd Collection:	\$ 8,361.00

*Thank you for your support! ¡Gracias por su apoyo!
Cảm ơn tấm lòng quảng đại của mọi người.*

Las lecturas de la semana del 10 de mayo

- Domingo:** Hch 8, 5-8. 14-17/Sal 65, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7. 16 y 20/1 Pe 3, 15-18/Jn 14, 15-21
- Lunes:** Hch 16, 11-15/Sal 149, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6 y 9/Jn 15, 26-16, 4
- Martes:** Hch 16, 22-34/Sal 137, 1-2. 2-3. 7-8/Jn 16, 5-11
- Miércoles:** Hch 17, 15. 22-18, 1/Sal 148, 1-2. 11-12. 13. 14/Jn 16, 12-15
- Jueves:** Hch 1, 15-17. 20-26/Sal 112, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8/Jn 15, 9-17
- Viernes:** Hch 18, 9-18/Sal 46, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7/Jn 16, 20-23
- Sábado:** Hch 18, 23-28/Sal 46, 2-3. 8-9. 10/Jn 16, 23-28
- Domingo:** Hch 1, 1-11/Sal 46, 2-3. 6-7. 8-9/Ef 1, 17-23/Mt 28, 16-20

Las conmemoraciones de la semana del 10 de mayo

- Domingo:** 6º Domingo de Pascua; Día de la Madre (EEUU)
- Martes:** Santos Nero y Aquileo, mártires; San Pancracio, mártir
- Miércoles:** Nuestra Señora de Fátima
- Jueves:** La Ascensión del Señor (día de precepto en algunas diócesis de los Estados Unidos); San Matías, apóstol
- Viernes:** San Isidoro
- Sábado:** Día de las Fuerzas Armadas
- Domingo:** La Ascensión del Señor; 7º Domingo de Pascua; Día de las Comunicaciones Mundiales

(PRACTICANDO) CATÓLICA: RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

Por Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini reflexión: Todos necesitamos redención. Sin embargo, cuando aceptamos esa redención, también aceptamos una responsabilidad. Porque ahora, nos convertimos en lo que el mundo ve de Cristo.

El Cristo Que Ves

"¿Y si eres la única versión de Cristo que alguien ve hoy?" me preguntó una vez un amigo.

Se me heló la sangre. *Vaya, pensé. Eso sería... muy desafortunado.*

Cristo nos dice que el mundo no puede aceptar al Espíritu Santo porque el mundo no puede ver ni conocer al Espíritu Santo (Juan 14:17). Pero el mundo nos puede ver. El mundo puede conocernos. De este modo, cumplimos la Gran Comisión: avanzamos y hacemos discípulos de todas las naciones. En todo lo que somos y en todo lo que hacemos, ofrecemos explicación para nuestra esperanza (1 Pedro 3:15).

Nos enfrentamos a una situación única, 2,000 años después de la Resurrección, porque nuestro campo misionero está lleno de personas que ya han oído hablar de Cristo.

Y no tienen *ningún* interés, gracias y, por favor, fuera de mi porche.

¿Este Cristo que han visto? Se pone a sí mismo primero. Desconfía de los demás. No le interesa mezclarse con la gente equivocada. Se sabe que miente, abusa de la confianza, se protege a sí mismo.

Aquí está el problema: no han visto a Cristo en absoluto. Solo han visto cristianos.

Es fácil culpar a los culpables evidentes: el sacerdote consumido en un escándalo público, el administrador parroquial que robó de las cajas. Pero estas son solo versiones mayores del mismo fracaso del que me siento culpable cada vez que me estremezco al pensar que alguien asocie mi comportamiento, mis palabras y mi actitud con mi Salvador.

Yo no soy Cristo. Estoy muy lejos de eso. Pero soy afortunada de ser miembro de su Cuerpo.

Todos fracasamos, por supuesto. Cada apóstol, cada santo, cada obispo, cada sacerdote, cada hombre y mujer en los bancos: todos estamos rotos. Todos necesitamos redención. Sin embargo, cuando aceptamos esa redención, también aceptamos una responsabilidad. Porque ahora, nos convertimos en lo que el mundo ve de Cristo.

¿Estoy preparado o preparada para ser la única versión de Cristo que alguien ve hoy? ©LPi

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO – ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

Las palabras de Jesús en la liturgia de hoy son como un testamento que se cumple con la llegada del Consolador: *"Si ustedes me aman, guardarán mis mandamientos, y yo rogaré al Padre y les dará otro Protector que permanecerá siempre con ustedes"* (Juan 14:15). ¿Qué nos toca cumplir a nosotros ante la petición de Jesús? Solamente una cosa: cumplir los mandamientos; es decir, vivir según el Evangelio, siendo caritativos y generosos. Aunque nos cueste dejar el egoísmo, la misericordia puede vencer por medio del amor.

"Cuántas personas se han alejado, por ejemplo, de la parroquia o comunidad por el ambiente de habladurías, de celos, de envidias que han encontrado. También para un cristiano, el saber amar no es un dato adquirido una vez para siempre; hay que volver a empezar cada día, hay que ejercitarse para que nuestro amor hacia los hermanos y hermanas que encontramos se vuelva maduro y purificado de aquellos límites o pecados que lo hacen parcial, egoísta, estéril e infiel. Cada día se debe aprender el arte de amar" (Papa Francisco, 21 de mayo de 2017). Más claro que el agua no puede ser: el Espíritu Santo nos acompaña, y la muestra de nuestro amor a Jesús está en practicar los mandamientos. Pidámosle a Jesús que nos ayude con su gracia a ser dóciles a la voz de Dios. La vida es difícil; se presentan muchas cosas cada día, pero por lo menos seamos coherentes en la fe. ©LPi



THÔNG BÁO HỌP HỘI ĐỒNG MỤC VỤ

**Chúa Nhật, 17/5/2026 lúc 1 PM
tại phòng St. Polycarp**

Kính mời quý thành viên tham dự đông đủ
và đúng giờ.

CHUỖI MÀN CÔI LIÊN KẾT

Trong Tháng Hoa, kính mời quý Ông Bà Anh Chị Em cùng tham gia **Lần Hạt Chuỗi Màn Côi Liên Kết** để dâng lên Mẹ những đóa hoa thiêng.

Mỗi người, mỗi gia đình xin hiệp ý lần một chục hoặc một chuỗi, kết nối với nhau thành tràng hoa Màn Côi sống động dâng Mẹ. Qua lời kính đơn sơ, chúng ta cầu nguyện cho Giáo Xứ, cho hòa bình thế giới và cho các ý nguyện riêng.

Thánh Lễ

tại LINH ĐÀI ĐỨC MẸ LA VANG

Cộng đoàn chúng ta được phụ trách Thánh Lễ
tại Linh Đài Đức Mẹ La Vang,
Nhà Thờ Chính Tòa Chúa Kitô,
vào lúc **8:30 sáng Thứ Bảy, 06/6/2026.**

Kính mời quý cộng đoàn cùng sắp xếp
thời gian tham dự và hiệp ý cầu nguyện

Tiệc Tri Ân Cha Mẹ & 10 Năm Hồng Ân Linh Mục

Mừng Ngày Hiền Phụ,

trong Thánh Lễ **4h00 chiều, Chúa Nhật ngày 21/6/2026**

Cộng Đoàn sẽ hiệp ý cầu nguyện đặc biệt cho những Người Cha. Dịp này cũng
là Kỷ Niệm 10 Năm Thánh Chức Linh Mục của Cha Quản Nhiệm.

Cộng Đoàn sẽ tổ chức Tiệc Tri Ân Cha Mẹ
và Mừng 10 Năm Hồng Ân Linh Mục lúc 5h30 chiều cùng ngày
tại Diamond Seafood Palace 3

Vé tham dự là \$40/ người, được bán tại các hội đoàn
và cuối nhà thờ sau các thánh lễ.

Kính mời quý ông bà anh chị em tham dự để cùng tri ân các Đấng Sinh Thành
và chung vui cùng Cha Quản Nhiệm.



Thánh Lễ Tạ Ôn Cho Các Sinh Viên Tốt Nghiệp

Cha Quản Nhiệm sẽ dâng Thánh Lễ Đặc Biệt cầu nguyện cho các em tốt nghiệp Trung Học và Đại Học
trong năm 2026 vào Thánh Lễ 7h00 tối Thứ Bảy ngày 06/06/2026.

Để việc tổ chức được chu đáo và trang trọng, xin quý phụ huynh và các em vui lòng ghi danh sớm
trước ngày 31/5/26 qua email: cdpolycarp94@gmail.com

TÌM HIỂU VỀ GỐC TÍCH

Tháng Hoa Đức Mẹ

Tháng Năm, Tháng Hoa kính Đức Mẹ, là truyền thống đạo đức đã bén rễ sâu trong đời sống người Công giáo.

Từ những thế kỷ đầu, khi người Rôma mừng mùa xuân bằng lễ hội hoa, các Kitô hữu đã thánh hóa tập tục ấy bằng việc rước kiệu và cầu nguyện xin mùa màng tốt lành.

Đến thế kỷ 14 -17, lòng sùng kính Đức Mẹ trong tháng Năm được nhiều vị thánh và các cộng đoàn tu trì cổ võ qua việc dâng hoa, quy tụ thiếu nhi, hát kính và châu Thánh Thể.

Sang thế kỷ 19, truyền thống này lan rộng khắp Giáo Hội nhờ sự nhiệt thành của các linh mục và giáo dân.

Các Đức Giáo hoàng Piô XII và Phaolô VI đều khẳng định Tháng Năm là thời gian đặc biệt để con cái Mẹ dâng lời cầu nguyện, tỏ lòng yêu mến và đón nhận muôn ơn lành từ Mẹ Maria.

Một câu chuyện đáng suy nghĩ được kể lại trong sách đạo đức truyền thống:

Tại Nancêniô (Pháp), có một gia đình trung lưu. Người vợ đạo đức, kiên trì cầu nguyện cho người chồng hiền lành nhưng khô khan, ít khi tham dự việc đạo và không bao giờ cầu nguyện chung với gia đình. Dù vậy, ông có một thói quen nhỏ bé nhưng chân thành: mỗi khi đi làm về, ông đều hái vài bông hoa dại để vợ con dâng kính Đức Mẹ trong tháng Hoa.

Ông qua đời bất ngờ, không kịp lãnh các bí tích sau cùng. Người vợ đau buồn và lo lắng cho linh hồn chồng đến mức sinh bệnh.



Khi đi ngang qua làng Ars, bà tìm đến Cha Gioan Vianney để xin lời khuyên.

Trước khi bà kịp nói điều gì, cha đã nhẹ nhàng trấn an: *"Đừng lo cho linh hồn chồng bà. Những bông hoa ông ấy dâng Đức Mẹ, Chúa đã nhận. Nhờ những việc lành đơn sơ ấy và nhờ lời cầu nguyện của bà, ông đã được ơn ăn năn trọn trong giờ chết."*

Cha cho biết ông đã thoát khỏi hỏa ngục và đang được thanh luyện trong luyện ngục, cần thêm lời cầu nguyện và việc lành để sớm về Thiên đàng. Nghe vậy, người vợ xúc động tạ ơn Chúa và Đức Mẹ.

Câu chuyện nhắc chúng ta rằng: **mọi hy sinh, lời kính, bông hoa và những nhân đức dâng lên Mẹ đều có giá trị cứu rỗi lớn lao, dù nhỏ bé đến đâu.**

Như lời Thánh Anphongsô: *"Nếu tôi thật lòng yêu mến Mẹ, thì tôi chắc chắn được lên thiên đàng."* Và Thánh Bênado khẳng định:

"Được Mẹ dẫn dắt, bạn sẽ không ngã.

Được Mẹ che chở, bạn sẽ không sợ.

Được Mẹ hướng dẫn, bạn sẽ an lòng.

Được Mẹ ban ơn, bạn sẽ đạt đích mong chờ."

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS
English/Spanish Religious Education

(714) 892-3158

Monday/Thursday 2PM - 6PM
Saturday 9AM - 1PM

Confirmation Programs

(714) 890-5200

Tuesday/Wednesday 1PM - 5:30PM
Friday 1PM - 5PM
Sunday 8AM - 3PM

Vietnamese Religious Education

(714) 620-7895

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 2PM - 5:30PM
Saturday 10AM - 1PM

CELEBRATING
50
ODCCW
1976 YEARS 2026

Honoring the Past • Building the Future

The Orange Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference


Keynote Speaker, Annette Hills
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Mass at 9:30am in the St. Callistus Chapel

Mass will be followed by a light continental breakfast, keynote speaker, luncheon and visit from special guest
Bishop Kevin Vann

Registration: \$50
QR Code or call Susan at 949-345-9130



ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
SPIRITUALITY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE

 **Pro Sanctity Movement**



Easter
Prayer Group

Join us weekly on Thursday mornings for coffee and refreshments as we pray with the Sunday Gospel.


APRIL 16, 23, 30; MAY 7, 14, 21
AFTER 8:30 AM MASS UNTIL 10:30 AM

ST. POLYCARP ROOM

No registration is needed.
Please contact Cathy for any questions at 714-496-9597

Mother's Day
Dia de la Madre

Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity



The 19th Annual Roman & Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christian Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

will be held at

Forty Martyrs Armenian Orthodox Church

5315 W. McFadden Ave., Santa Ana CA 92704

On

Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7pm

A reception will follow the Service

Pray for the Sick

Eliam Phan
Esperanza Ramirez
Jason Minton
Diego DiMassimo Velasquez
Ngoc Tran
Richard Saragosa
Maria Urendiz
Rosa Garcia
Yolanda Meillon
Evangelina Escobedo

Funeral Mass

Uvilibaldo Saldana Villegas 5/15 @ 12 PM

HOLY FAMILY A Sacred Opportunity for Grace

The Relics of St. Carlo Acutis and Special Guest Saints

Monday (5/11):

- Veneration - 9AM to 2PM
- Confessions - 5:30PM to 6:30PM
- Info. Talk - 6:30PM to 7PM
- Veneration/Book Sales - 7PM to 9PM

Tuesday (5/12):

- Veneration - 9AM to 2PM
- Confessions - 5:30PM to 6:30PM
- Info. Talk - 6:30PM to 7PM
- Veneration/Book Sales - 7PM to 9PM

Wednesday (5/13):

- Veneration - 9AM to 2PM
- Spanish Mass - 6:30PM to 7:30PM
- Veneration/Book Sales - 7:30PM to 9PM

Thursday (5/14):

- Veneration - 9AM to 2PM
- Special Mass - 6:30PM to 7:30PM
- Veneration/Book Sales - 7:30PM to 9PM

Friday (5/15):

- Veneration - 9AM to 2PM
- Info. Talk - 6PM to 6:30PM
- Confession - 6:30PM to 7:30PM
- Veneration/Book Sales - 7:30PM to 9PM

Saturday (5/16):

- Veneration/Book Sales - 9AM to 4PM
- Info. Talk:
 - After the 8:15AM Mass - 2PM to 2:30PM
- Confession - 2:30PM to 3:30PM
- Vigil Mass with Relics - 4:00PM

Sunday (5/17):

- Relics present at all Sunday Masses (7AM, 9AM, 11AM, 1PM & 4PM)
- Veneration/Book Sales between Masses

Prayer Veneration Special Mass New Insights Grow in Faith

Special Guest St. Relics:

- St. Ignatius of Loyola
- St. Dominic Savio
- St. Maria Goretti

JOIN US FOR THE ST. CARLO ACUTIS Relic Tour

MAY 11-17, 2026

566 S Glassell St, Orange, CA 92866
 Questions? Email asantalsabel@hforange.org

"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven!"
-St. Carlo Acutis

www.hforange.org/highway

THE ORANGE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS

HOUSE OF DAVID

Join us for a special evening Season 2 screening of *House of David*

Featuring:

- ~ Michael Iskander- Star of *House of David*
- ~ Father Al Baca- Episcopal Vicar
- ~ Deacon Charlie Echeverry- Author, producer of Catholic film and TV

TUESDAY, MAY 12 7-9PM
Doors open 6:45

Christ Cathedral's Freed Theater
 13280 Chapman Ave
 Garden Grove, CA 92840

Limited seating available
First come, first-served

RSVP: Events@OrangeCatholicFoundation.org

Servite High School invites students entering 1st through 8th grade to join our summer camps.

Choose from eight sports camps: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, swim, track and field, volleyball, and water polo. Families may register for a single week or bundle multiple weeks for savings.

Looking for theater, academic enrichment, or a future Friar experience too? Multi-week camps offer students the chance to explore a variety of subjects, and our theater camp ends with a performance of *Shrek: The Musical Kids!*

Camp schedules are designed to align with Servite Athletic Youth Camps. Students attending both athletic and academic camps will be guided by staff from the athletic field or gym directly to their classrooms.

Camps begin as early as Monday, June 8.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Please contact servitecommunications@servitehs.org with any questions.

SUMMER CAMPS

R

ROSARY ACADEMY

RISING 3RD-8TH GRADES

CAMPS START JUNE 8

MON-THURS 9AM-12PM & 12:30PM-3:30PM

OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

- Cooking
- Girls Lead!
- Games
- Photography
- Art
- Sports
- and more!

SCAN TO CHECK OUT ALL SUMMER CAMP OFFERINGS.



REGISTER BY APRIL 1 AND RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT ON EACH CAMP.

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 1 April 2026

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 6. Living stones in the Church and witnesses in the world: the laity in the People of God"

Brothers and sisters, good morning!

Let us continue on our path of reflection on the Church as she is presented to us in the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG). Today we will look at the fourth chapter, which deals with the laity. Let us all remember what [Pope Francis](#) liked to repeat: "Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God. The minority — ordained ministers — are at their service" (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*, 102).

This section of the Document seeks to explain, in positive terms, the nature and mission of the laity, after centuries in which they had been defined simply as those who are not part of the clergy or the consecrated life. For this reason, I would like to revisit with you a very beautiful passage that speaks of the greatness of the Christian condition: "Therefore, the chosen People of God is one: 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism' (*Eph* 4:5); sharing a common dignity as members from their regeneration in Christ, having the same filial grace and the same vocation to perfection; possessing in common one salvation, one hope and one undivided charity" (LG, 32).

Before any distinction of ministry or state of life, the Council affirms the equality of all the baptized. The Constitution does not want us to forget what it had already affirmed in the chapter on the People of God, namely that the condition of the messianic people is the dignity and freedom of the children of God (cf. LG, 9).

Naturally, the greater the gift, the greater the commitment too. For this reason, the [Council](#), along with dignity, also emphasizes the mission of the laity in the Church and in the world. But on what is this mission founded, and in what does it consist? The very description of the laity offered by the Council tells us: "The term laity is here understood to mean all the faithful... [who] are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world" (LG, 31).

The holy People of God, therefore, is never a formless mass, but the body of Christ, or, as Saint Augustine said, the *Christus totus*; it is a community organically structured by means of the fruitful relationship between the two forms of participation in the priesthood of Christ: the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood (cf. LG, 10). By virtue of Baptism, the lay faithful participate in the very priesthood of Christ. Indeed, "the supreme and eternal Priest, Christ Jesus, since He wills to continue His witness and service also through the laity, vivifies them in this Spirit and increasingly urges them on to every good and perfect work" (LG, 34).

In this regard, how can we fail to recall [Saint John Paul II](#) and his Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* (30 December 1988)? In it, he emphasized that "the Council, with its rich doctrinal, spiritual and pastoral patrimony, has written as never before on the nature, dignity, spirituality, mission and responsibility of the lay faithful. And the Council Fathers, re-echoing the call of Christ, have summoned all the lay faithful, both women and men, to labour in the vineyard" (no. 2). In this way, my venerable Predecessor relaunched the apostolate of the laity, to which the Council dedicated a specific Document, which we will talk about later (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Decree *Apostolicam actuositatem*, 18 November 1965).

The vast field of the lay apostolate is not confined to the Church, but extends to the world. Indeed, the Church is present wherever her children profess and bear witness to the Gospel: in the workplace, in civil society and in all human relationships, wherever they, through their choices, show the beauty of Christian life, which foretells here and now the justice and peace that will be accomplished in the Kingdom of God. The world needs to "be permeated by the spirit of Christ, and more effectively fulfil its purpose in justice, charity and peace" (LG, 36). And this is possible only through the contribution, service and witness of the laity!

It is an invitation to be the Church 'which goes forth' that [Pope Francis](#) spoke to us about: a Church embodied in history, always open to mission, in which we are all called to be missionary disciples, apostles of the Gospel, witnesses of the Kingdom of God, bearers of the joy of Christ whom we have encountered!

Brothers and sisters, may the Easter we are preparing to celebrate renew in us the grace to be, like Mary Magdalene, like Peter and John, witnesses of the Risen One!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice,
came out of many possessed people,
and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured.
There was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:7-8)

Psalm:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (Ps 66)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

For Christ also suffered for sins once,
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,
that he might lead you to God. (1 Pt 3:18)

Gospel:

"Whoever has my commandments and observes them
is the one who loves me.
And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14:21)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

When we want to see Christ's face, we must look to the Sacraments. "The world will no longer see me," Christ tells his disciples, "but you will see me." This ability to see Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit, one made again and again — even today.

Observances for the week of May 10, 2026

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter; *Mother's Day*
Tuesday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs;
St. Pancras, Martyr
Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of
obligation in some U.S. dioceses);
St. Matthias, Apostle
Friday: St. Isidore
Saturday: *Armed Forces Day*
Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter;
World Communications Day



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of courage is intimately linked with that of fortitude — roughly understood as courage in action — and is shown by the person who makes a choice to place his trust in God, not in circumstance.

Blessing for Mother's Day

Dear Lord,
Pour your goodness and grace upon the women of our community today in a special way. For mothers: fill them with joy and blessing. For those who have lost children: hold them in their sorrow. For those who have hoped for children: surround them with Your love. For those who have lost a mother: may they know Your comfort. For those carrying difficulty on this day: bring them consolation. Bless all women this day. Thank you for the love they bring to this world, no matter their circumstances or story. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We are all in need of redemption. When we accept that redemption, however, we also accept a responsibility. Because now, we become what the world sees of Christ.

The Christ You See

"What if you are the only version of Christ someone sees today?" a friend once asked me.

My blood ran cold. *Jeez, I thought. That would be...really unfortunate.*

The world cannot accept the Holy Spirit, Christ tells us, because the world cannot see and know the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). But the world can see us. The world can know us. In this way, we accomplish the Great Commission: we go forth, and we make disciples of all nations. In all that we are and all that we do, we offer an explanation for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

We face a unique situation, 2,000 years after the Resurrection, because our mission field is full of people who have already heard about Christ.

And they have zero interest, thanks-and-please-get-off-my-porch.

This Christ they've seen? He puts himself first. He's suspicious of other people. He's not interested in mixing with the wrong crowd. He's been known to lie, to abuse trust, to protect himself.

Here's the problem: they haven't seen Christ at all. They've only seen Christians.

It's easy to blame the obvious culprits: the priest consumed in public scandal, the parish trustee who stole from the coffers. But these are only larger versions of the same failure of which I am guilty each time I shiver at the thought of someone associating my behavior, my words, and my attitude with my Savior.

I am not Christ. I am nowhere close. But I am fortunate enough to be a member of his Body.

We all fail, of course. Every apostle, every saint, every bishop, every priest, every man and woman in the pews: we are all broken. We are all in need of redemption. When we accept that redemption, however, we also accept responsibility. Because now, we become what the world sees of Christ.

Am I ready to be the only version of Christ someone sees today?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

One of my coworkers said that Catholics believe we kill Christ again when we celebrate the Mass, since it is his sacrifice. I know that is not right, but how do we explain it?

Answer:

We do indeed believe that the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and we believe that the sacrifice is made present again on the altar—not to repeat it, but to join ourselves to it. We are joined to the saving work of Christ, not just simply remembering it.

The closest thing we might have in our culture is when a couple saves some wedding cake in the freezer, and on their first anniversary, they may watch their wedding video and eat the cake, all to recapture the moment. The Jews celebrate a Seder meal, not to remember the Passover, but to participate in it through the ritual foods, questions, and readings. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the Mass as the "Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ" (#1330). To think that we must sacrifice Christ over and over again would negate what he did on Calvary. To celebrate and renew it each day allows us to participate in it. That is the "source and summit" of Christian life (#1324).



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