

St. Joseph Parish

MOVED
WITH COMPASSION.

— MATTHEW 18:27 —



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

stjosephlb.org



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time! “Wrath and anger are hateful things...” These are the first words of our first reading this weekend. Like last Sunday, our scripture readings deal with forgiveness. God is merciful, and we are invited to remember God’s forgiving us when we are presented with the option of mercy or justice in response to our being injured. Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!

This past week, our nation remembered the 25th anniversary of 911. Most people over the age of 30 can answer the question, “Where were you on September 11?” Our faith has much to do with remembering and this past week I recalled where I was on that horrific and tragic day. I was on the construction site of the Cathedral of our Lady the Angels. We were a year away from opening the new mother Church of the Archdiocese. My office was located with the Construction offices on the second level in the underground parking garage. Our construction manager asked me to come to his makeshift cubicle and together with an old black-and-white TV with rabbit ears, and a grainy picture, we watched in horror as the Twin Towers fell. I told him to gather all the construction workers as we needed to pray. As I walked out onto the Cathedral Plaza, I could hear people screaming as they were running out of the high-rises in downtown LA. I gathered our 500 construction workers in the lower plaza and with a bullhorn I told them that something horrible was happening in our country, that people were dying and we needed to pray. I held a bullhorn which amplified my voice over

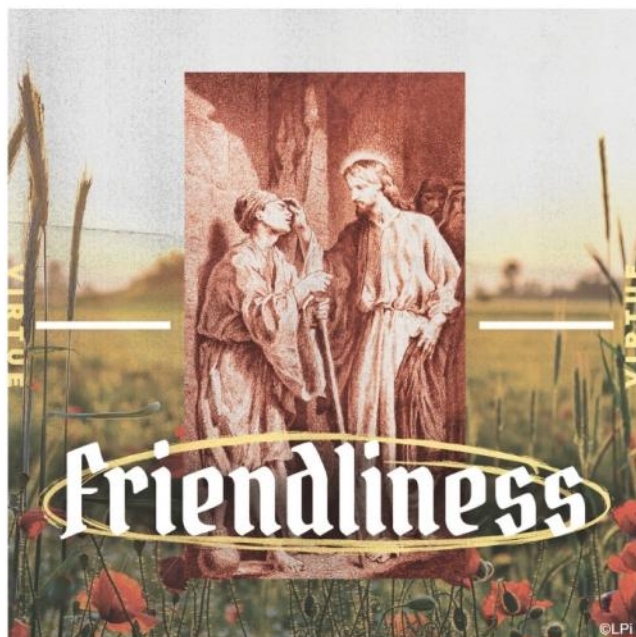
the men and women who had bowed their heads and placed their Construction hats over their hearts. It was the first public prayer service on the new Cathedral site. May we never forget all of those who lost their lives in the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. And may all nations continue to eradicate terrorism and promote peace and justice among all people.

As you know, I’m blessed to serve as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Our mission as a Papal Order is to support the Christians in the Holy Land, and to protect and maintain the Holy Shrines of our Lord. While much of the Holy Land is still closed, only a couple of religious good stores remain in Bethlehem in Palestine. They sell beautiful hand carved olive wood devotional items. This weekend after all Masses, Andrew Bannoura from the Jerusalem Gift Shop will be here displaying their products and allowing you to support the mission of the Christians in the Holy Land by buying their goods. They have beautiful works and I invite you to please bring your checkbook or credit card and go shopping in front of the church after Mass. Let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Remember to sign up for the Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner and plan to attend the Annual Worship Concert on the field. Scroll down to see all the future activities here at St. Joe’s!!

End of Summer Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

The modern world we all must share seems, in some ways, to be shrinking.

For good or ill, thanks to the internet, the widespread use of social media, and the omnipresence of smartphones, we are finding ourselves interacting frequently with people who live, act, and think differently than we do.

It may well be that the virtue of friendliness, known officially as affability, is more important than ever.

In fact, being attached as it is to the virtue of justice, friendliness is a debt we owe our fellow human beings, writes St. Thomas Aquinas (*Sum.*, II:II, 114, Art. 2). The fact is, we cannot evangelize without kindness. We can see this in the instructions Christ gives his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: "As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you." (Matthew 10:13)

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)

Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. (Ps 103)

Second Reading

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord. (Rom 14:8)

Gospel

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,
"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive?"

As many as seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

We have all been the wicked servant. We have denied others the same forgiveness and grace shown to us. This week, let us find new ways to make the love and mercy of God manifest in the lives of those we meet.

Worship & Observances

A Blessing for Grandparents

Dear God,
Bless the grandparents in our community.
Stir in them a sense of caring,
thoughtfulness, and kindness toward their
preceding generations. Like St. Anne and St.
Joachim, inspire them to live lives of brave
faith and virtue. Give them and their families
warm memories, happy times, and bright
hope.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday

Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/
Mt 18:21-35

Monday

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/
Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday

1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday

1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday

Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a



Observances for the Week of September 13, 2026

Sunday

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparent's Day

Monday

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday

Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday

Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday

St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of
the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin
and Doctor of the Church

Saturday

St. Janarius, Bishop and Martyr

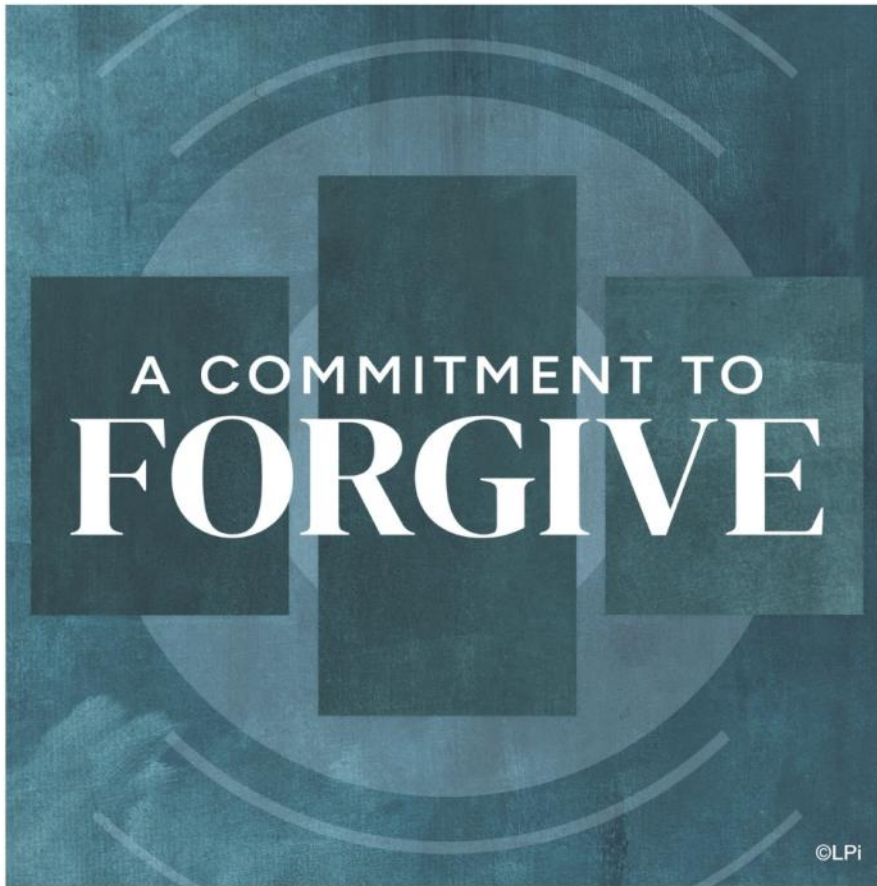
Next Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Gospel Meditation



Encourage
Deeper
Understanding
of Scripture

Matthew
18:21-35

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, "You know, you don't have to say 'sorry' so often." She looked me right in the eyes and said, "Father, you're right. I'm sorry." Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter's question, **"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?"** Jesus responds, **"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."** In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— Father John Muir

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
PRESENTS

ZION
WORSHIP

Featuring

LATI 2
MUSIC

The 3rd Annual
WORSHIP
CONCERT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

HOSTED BY : THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

DINNER RSVP



Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Donation Basket Available

Proceeds Benefit Youth Ministry



🎵 FOLLOWED BY FREE WORSHIP CONCERT 🎵

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

2 Live Worship Bands • All Ages Welcome!



Concert Seating:



Bring Your Own Lawn Chair

COME TO ONE OR ENJOY BOTH! ❤️

For more information, please call: (562)598-0519 Ext 2

*Reconnect.
Recharge.
Refocus.*

Come experience
the beauty of
Catholic community,
prayer, the sacraments,
and renewal.

MEN YOU ARE INVITED TO **WELCOME CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH**



A PARISH RETREAT WEEKEND
HERE AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



“Come to Me,
all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give
you rest.”

— MATTHEW 11:28

Hear from Men in Our Parish Community



“The retreat was really powerful. I left feeling closer to God and our men’s community. It highlighted the important need for a Catholic brotherhood, and how we are not alone in our struggles.”

— Josh Roman (1st grade dad)



“Attending the Welcome Retreat #3 bridged an imaginary gap between St. Joe’s school and church for me. I was blessed with meeting and sharing a spiritual weekend with past and present St. Joe’s dads and other parishioners. The bond and trust that was formed that retreat weekend has carried forward and continues to grow as my kids grow at St. Joe’s.”

— Sam Pham (K and 2nd grade dad)



“The retreat truly helped me to reground myself and reprioritize my life. It really helped show me the importance of anchoring myself and my family in God. The community of men of faith I now surround myself with continues to nourish me spiritually. I am forever grateful for this transformative experience.”

— Huy Ho (1st and 3rd grade dad)



MEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND
OCTOBER 24TH & 25TH, 2026

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



Sign Up Now

SCAN TO SIGN UP TODAY!
or visit

stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/#register

SPACE LIMITED



BROTHERS IN CHRIST. LEADERS IN FAITH. DISCIPLES FOR LIFE.





St. Joseph Faith Formation Registration Open!

- ✦ First Communion
 - ✦ Quest (3rd 4th and 5th grade)
 - ✦ Middle School (6th 7th and 8th grade)
- Please scan the QR code to
Register

Orientation will be on
Sunday, August 30th
at 3:30pm in the St.
Joseph Center!



Classes start on
Sunday Sept. 13th
from
10:00am to 11:15am

ST. JOSEPH PARISH
LONG BEACH

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



SESSIONS: BI-WEEKLY

MOST HOLIDAY WEEKENDS OFF

TIME: 11:00AM - 12:15PM

MASS AS A CLASS: 12:30PM - 1:30PM

SCAN TO REGISTER!



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO
REGISTER TODAY!**

**ENROLLING
NOW!**



ST.JOSEPHYM

WWW.STJOSEPHLB.ORG
(562)598-0519 EXT 2



"The fruit of love is service and the fruit of service is peace." - St. Mother Teresa

Sept 17 7:00 PM - Committee Meeting: As we begin our 41th year of channeling the generosity of our St. Joseph parish community to the poor and marginalized of Long Beach, help us inspire our upcoming activities.

Sept 26-27 - Feed-a-Baby Food

Drive: Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, New Life Beginnings and Transitions in Motherhood.

Oct. 31-Nov 1 - Blanket Drive: Collecting new blankets for our Thanksgiving Food and Blanket Distribution to over 100 families.



**KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S INTERESTED?
Walk - in! Come and See!**

Location:
St. Joseph Center - Meeting Room @11:00AM
(Followed by 12:30PM Mass together)

Date:	Time:	Meeting Room:
Sep 13, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Sep 27, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Oct 4, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Oct 18, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Nov 8, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Nov 22, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Dec 6, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)

INFORMATION: LIZ@STJOSEPHLB.ORG



What is labor trafficking?

Labor trafficking exists in many areas of life and occurs when people are not paid a just wage for their work or when their working conditions are abusive or unsafe. People who work in nail salons, massage parlors, domestic servitude positions and the agricultural industry are particularly vulnerable to labor trafficking. Children are also at risk for labor trafficking, both here and around the world. Some labor trafficking even leads to sex trafficking, especially for young girls and boys. For more information about labor trafficking, read the VIRTUS® article "Human Trafficking 102 — How can human trafficking exist here?" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

St. Joseph Senior Group Meeting

Join us! **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

in the St. Joseph Center

Presentation by Meals on Wheels at 9:30 am
Come early to hear about this important ministry!

Games start at 10:00 am

Activities from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm!
Fun, Friends & Fellowship!
♥ **Bingo, Poker, Card Games, Mexican Train & More!**

BRING ONE, TAKE ONE
Table of Books & Puzzles!

50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS Available!

TRIP INFO & SCHEDULES Available!

Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch!
Coffee, Tea, Water & Cookies Provided!

★ We look forward to seeing **all our members** and guests! New friends who want to join are welcome! ★

Annual Dues: \$20 Any questions? Please contact Linda Cruz: (562) 619-0114

In Memoriam

John Martin

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Parish
Monday, September 21st at 10:00 am

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

~Amen~

GriefShare®
SUPPORT • ENCOURAGEMENT • HOPE

GriefShare Support Group

A safe, welcoming place for anyone walking through the loss of a loved one.

SUPPORT **ENCOURAGEMENT** **HOPE**

You don't have to go through grief alone. GriefShare is a caring community where you can find understanding, encouragement, and hope—while walking alongside others who truly care.

Find support. Find hope. You are not alone.

CURRENT 13-WEEK SESSION
August 4 – November 3
You are welcome to join at any point during the session.

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Joseph – PLC (6180 E. Willow)
Contact: May Pace
(562) 833-6370
maypace@gmail.com

All are welcome!

We look forward to walking alongside you on your grief journey.
griefshare.org

Book Club

Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, November 18th at
7pm on Zoom

Good People by Patmeena Sabit.

In the debut novel by Afghan American author, Good People is a literary mystery told through a kaleidoscope of perspectives, exploring family, cultural tension, and the American immigrant experience.

All are welcome. For more info, email
agoodlife@msn.com

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

SPEND TIME WITH OUR LORD

Every third Tuesday
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
St. Joseph Catholic Church

NEXT ADORATION:
Tuesday,
September 15, 2026

PRAY • ADORE • BE RENEWED

THE SAN PEDRO COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
 INVITES YOU TO A
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

THEME:
SEVEN JOYS OF MARY FRANCISCAN CROWN

WHEN:
 TUESDAY
 OCTOBER 13, 2026
 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

WHERE:
 Hagerty Hall
 @ St. Margaret Mary
 Alacogue Church
 Lomita

Rev. Carlos Morales,
 OFM Conv.
 Associate Pastor at
 Our Lady of Guadalupe

RESERVATION FEE
\$30.00
 Breakfast & Lunch Included • RSVP by Sept. 29

Scan here for Registration Information you can print and mail with your payment

Questions? email: sanpedroccw@gmail.com | Shelia C. (310) 863-0812

Come and be renewed in faith, hope, and Mary's joy!

ARCHDIOCESE of LOS ANGELES

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION
 PLEASE CONTACT
IMMIGRATION@LA-ARCHDIOCESE.ORG

Please join us for the
MASS IN RECOGNITION OF ALL IMMIGRANTS

PRESIDER:
MOST REVEREND JOSÉ H. GÓMEZ
 ARCHBISHOP OF LOS ANGELES

555 W TEMPLE ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 20TH 2026 @ 3:30 PM

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES | ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ORANGE | DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

Jesus the Servant

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

Virtual Diaconate Formation Information Day

Sunday, October 4, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
via Zoom
Presentación en español disponible

To register please scan the QR Code and complete the registration form, or email NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org

Para registrarse, escanee el Código QR y llene la solicitud, o envíe correo electrónico a NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org

Allow us to accompany you in the discernment of a possible vocation to the diaconate.
Permítanos acompañarlo en el discernimiento a una posible vocación al diaconado.



AR - DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - PL - PT - ZH_TW

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Saint Peter's Square
Wednesday, 9 September 2026
[Multimedia]

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS12-22). 2. Human dignity: gift and responsibility.

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS), by dedicating the first chapter to the dignity of the human person, emphasizes that it is the foundation and condition for “those values which are most highly prized today”, but these must not lose sight of their “divine source”, in order to avoid possible distortions arising from the “taint in man’s human heart” (GS, 11).

The journey that made it possible to highlight the fundamental characteristics and rights of human dignity certainly represents one of the most significant chapters in human history. However, the path ahead is not yet complete and must address the contradictions, both old and new, which prevent its full realization.

The Church clearly offers her contribution, reminding us that human dignity arises from the very being of the person. I had the opportunity to reiterate this also in my recent Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*: "Every human person is planned and willed by God to enter into communion with Him, with others and with creation. Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of His unfailing love" (no. 50). The infinite dignity of the human being, then, is rooted in his identity as a creature made "'to God's image' ... capable of knowing and loving his Creator", a plan and gift of love that transcends other created realities, which are entrusted to his care to "subdue them and use them to God's glory" (*GS*, 12).

In faith we can understand the ultimate foundation for the dignity of the person, inasmuch as the Son, "by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear" (*no*. 22).

The person always implies relationship, communion and participation in relation to God and to others; hence, a filial relationship with God the Father and a fraternal relationship with Christ and with all humankind. It excludes self-centred isolation. To be a person means to perceive oneself as a gift to be shared, growing and maturing through acceptance, reciprocity and service.

This dignity is entrusted to the responsibility of each person: at the same time, it also demands solidarity and mutual care, overcoming the many falsifications and manipulations that still disfigure our perception of it and hinder its realization. Indeed, as a result of the choices made throughout history that have run counter to this dignity, even today "man is split within himself", and "all of human life, whether individual or collective, shows itself to be a dramatic struggle between good and evil between light and darkness". This fragile and limited condition, however, can be regarded with hope, because "the Lord Himself came to free and strengthen man, renewing him inwardly and casting out that 'prince of this world' (*John* 12:31) who held him in the bondage of sin" (*GS*, 13).

Furthermore, the Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* affirms that human dignity concerns the whole person and, therefore, dualistic views must be overcome: the human being "though made of body and soul, is one". Reducing the body to an "object" to be disposed of arbitrarily is always a denial of the dignity of the person: "man is not allowed to despise his bodily life" and "is obliged to regard his body as good and honourable since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day", while ensuring that it does not become enslaved by "the evil inclinations of his heart" (*GS*, 14), since we are all wounded by sin.

Finally, there *Gaudium et Spes* recalls the three most significant expressions of the dignity of the person: intelligence, which makes the human being an insatiable seeker of the truth (no. 15); conscience, through which he gives unity and meaning to his life (no. 16), and freedom, which makes him the responsible agent of his own decisions (no. 17). These dimensions are closely connected to one another: it is in conscience that truth is recognized as such, and freedom can experience it as its foundation and possibility. The Holy Spirit, who gives life in Christ, makes us free and constantly assures us of our dignity as children of God, delivering us from fear and guiding us towards the ultimate goal, that life in its fullness beyond death which Christ has promised us. It is only in Him that the mystery of the human person finds true light; from Him we receive light on the enigma of suffering and death; and with Him we journey towards the Resurrection.

Dear brothers and sisters, created in God's image, through Christ and for His sake, we have received a unique and indelible dignity. Let us commit ourselves to promoting and defending it always, with the light and strength of the Gospel.

Greeting:

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, South Africa, Australia, China, Japan, Lebanon, the Philippines, and the United States of America. In a particular way, I gladly renew my welcome to the members of the Steering Committee of the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World, who are present today. I thank you for your cooperation with the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, and pray that your efforts to promote peaceful coexistence in the Arab region will indeed bear much fruit. Upon each of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

Summary of Catechesis:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council, we continue our reflection on *Gaudium et Spes*, focusing on the dignity of the human person. Human dignity flows from our identity as children made in the image and likeness of God. We are endowed with the gifts of intelligence, for seeking truth; conscience, for recognizing our ultimate calling; and freedom, for choosing the good. Only through Christ do we understand that our personhood implies relationship and the call to give ourselves as a gift to God and others. May we therefore help each other to guard and defend our God-given dignity and journey together toward our heavenly homeland.

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The **HOLY SEE**

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Parish Directory

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Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
Senior Group	Donna Luciene	(562) 810-5244
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(702) 401-5247
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Boy Scouts	Jeff Baer	(562) 537-6722
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 431-1876
Homebound Ministry	Patty Brunter	pjbstampin@aol.com
Bereavement Ministry	May Pace	(562) 833-6370
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Altar Servers	Monica Wissuchek	stjfamilyaltarserver@gmail.com
Welcome CRHP	Diane Ohde	stjlbwelcome@gmail.com
Book Club	Mary Anne Silvestri	agoodlife@msn.com
Meditation	Frank McKown	frmckown@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

**Mass on the Grass
Outdoors**

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.

