



# Open Door

MIGUEL DULICK

**I**t is "Good Shepherd Sunday," and the gospel quotes Jesus: "I am the gate for the sheep." It seems the oddest of Jesus' "I am" identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep's pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—"strangers" who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as "thieves and robbers."

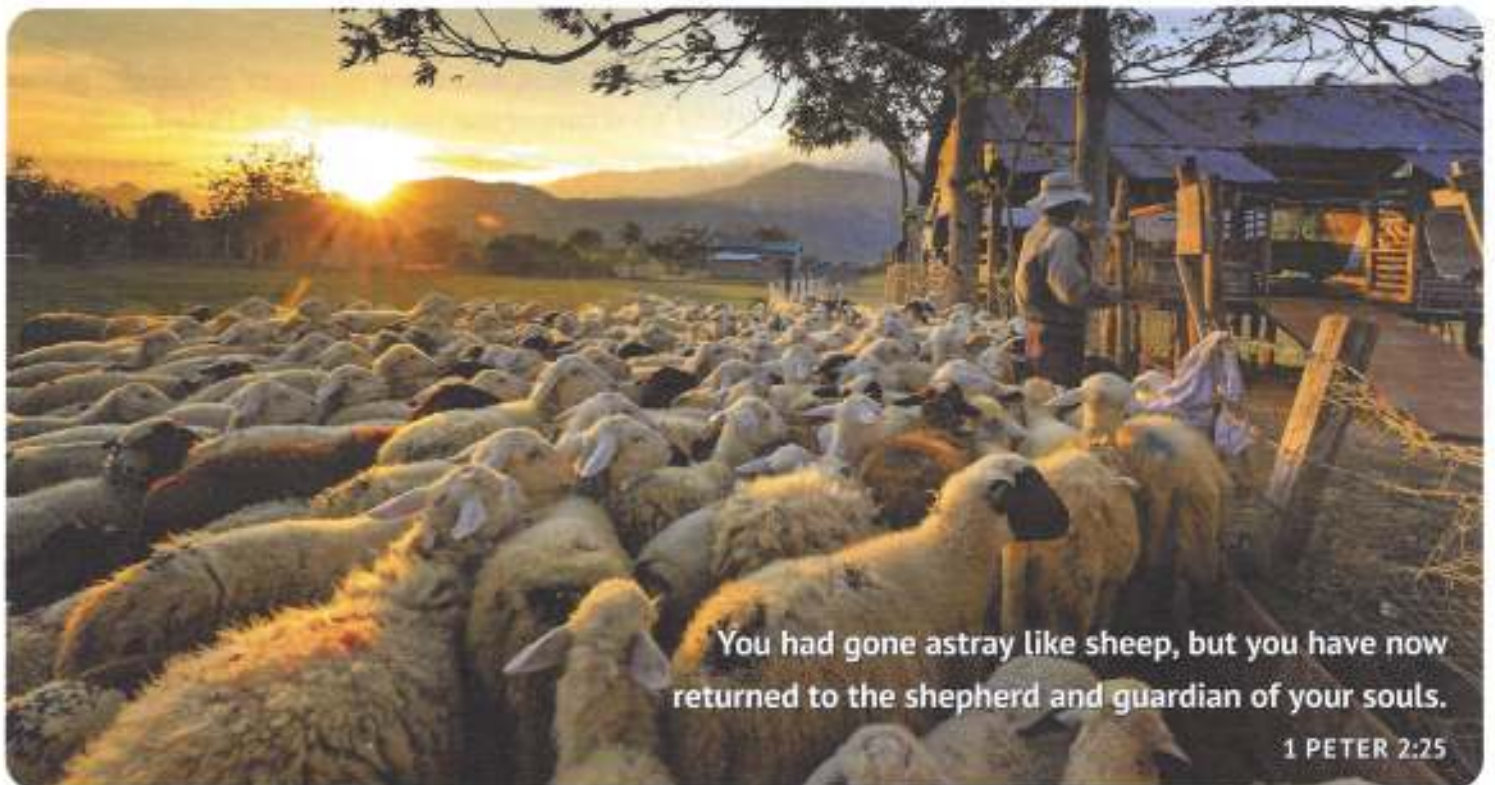
Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow

him because we recognize "his voice." In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like "a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy." Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). ●

## Reflect

**How can we recognize voices that speak the truth? How do we recognize Jesus' voice?**



**You had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.**

**1 PETER 2:25**

# ST. BARBARA PARISH

302 Chestnut Street  
Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: [Stbarbaraparish2@outlook.com](mailto:Stbarbaraparish2@outlook.com)

Website: [www.bureauatholic.org](http://www.bureauatholic.org)



## St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street  
Dalzell IL



## Holy Trinity Site

### Parish Office

212 S Main Street  
PO BOX 159  
Cherry IL

## Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

### Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating  
between STM Site & HT Site  
in the Confessional between  
10:30 am-11:15am

**Emergency Number: 779-248-2164**

Email: [Melissahtc@outlook.com](mailto:Melissahtc@outlook.com)

### Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

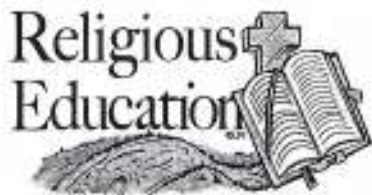
Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

### CCD Classes

**Sunday, April 26th– No Class**

**Sunday, May 3rd First Communion Mass at HT Site**



### St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 27, 2026

Monday	04/27			† No Mass
Tuesday	04/28	9:00 am	STM Site	† No Mass
Wednesday	04/29	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Ivan & Gladys Hassler
Thursday	04/30	9:00 am	HT Site	† Wealthy Georgina Baer
Friday	05/01	9:00 am	STM Site	† Lyla Maggio

### St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of May 2– 3, 2026

Saturday	05/02	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	05/03	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† Bob & Betty Ruskusky

## THE MONTH OF MAY~ DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

As we are about to welcome the beautiful Month of May, we are reminded that it is a special month dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Mary has a unique and privileged place in the salvation history and in the Church. Because she responded “yes” to becoming the Mother of God, she is our first model of discipleship and our model of grace and trust in God.

Among Catholics, May is most well-known as “Mary’s Month,” a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother? Ancient Greek and Western cultures view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before “Mother’s Day” was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honor maternity during the spring months. In the early Church there is evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year, but it wasn’t until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary.

Various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May, as it is recorded in the *Raccolta*, a publication of prayers published in the mid-19th century. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honor our Heavenly Mother.  
(excerpted from: [www.stpatricktampa.org](http://www.stpatricktampa.org))



## Church Announcements

### Cemetery Appeal Letter:

The Cemetery Board is going to send out this 2026 cemetery appeal letters, asking for members’ generosity in donating to the cemetery funds so that we can continue taking good care of our two cemeteries: Holy Trinity Miners Memorial Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery. May God repay you plentifully for your generosity.

### CCD Year End Appreciation:

As our 2025-2026 CCD year is coming to an end, Fr. Thaddeus and all church members like to express their sincere thankfulness to our CCD Coordinator; Michelle Bickett and CCD staff:

Jaime Bazydlo, Judy Hahn, Ellie Hermann, Emily Leffelman, Jenna Olsen, Hannah Pinter, Marianne Pyszka, Olivia Raef, Karen Smith, Lee Ann Tabor

Our CCD program would not have been as successful without their dedication and sacrifices.

Latest Offering’s  
April 19th Weekend  
St. Barbara Parish  
Total Collections:  
\$2,452.25

**Order Now:**  
**Your Diocese of Peoria**  
**150th Anniversary Book**

Contains:  
Diocesan History and a  
2-page spread for each church  
with photos and brief history  
and much more!

Contact your parish to order.

This book is only  
being printed  
once – so be  
sure to order  
yours before it’s  
too late!!



### Next Confessions

Confession will be

Sat. May 2nd

10:30 am-11:15 am

HT Site

in the confessional

# Dear Padre,

***Should Christians avoid practicing qi gong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.***

This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 11:1–18 Jn 10:11–18	Acts 11:19–26 Jn 10:22–30	Acts 12:24–13:5a Jn 12:44–50	Acts 13:13–25 Jn 13:16–20	Acts 13:26–33 Jn 14:1–6	Acts 13:44–52 Jn 14:7–14	Acts 6:1–7 1 Pt 2:4–9 Jn 14:1–12



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.***

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025