



Life Out of Focus

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I found myself angry the other day, as we all do, I suppose, whenever we put our foot in our mouth, or forget about an important engagement, or scramble whatever it was we had hoped would be picture-perfect. What I had scrambled was a homily. For some reason, the image came out wrong, or the example did not fit, or it just did not come together the way I had hoped. And I was angry with myself to the point that it caught me off guard. It was an unexpected glimpse of what I didn't want to admit: the fact that the way people might perceive me as a preacher had taken on more importance than preaching God's word. Life had gotten out of focus. A perspective had been lost.

It happens to us all in the course of our lifetimes,

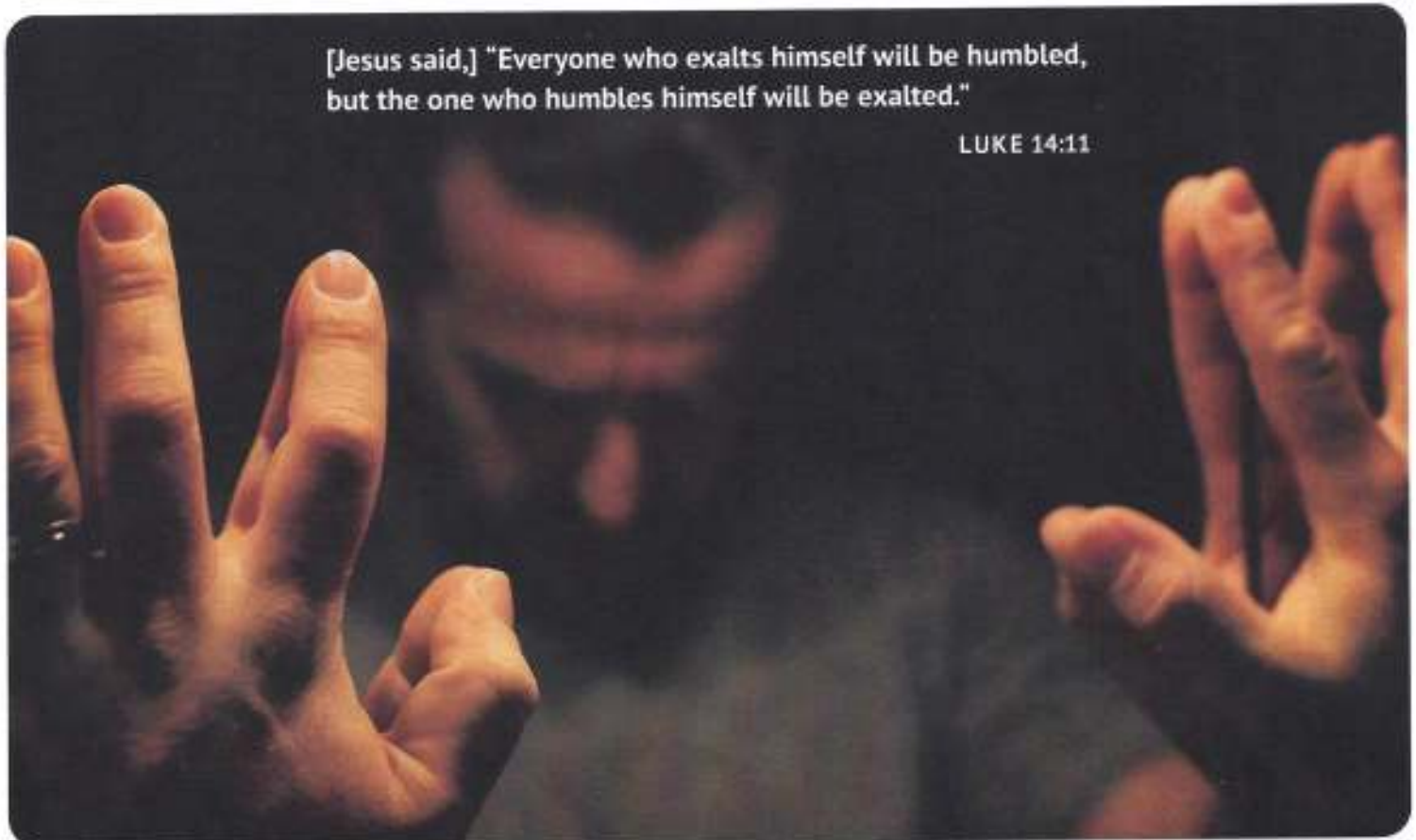
and more than once. Grades become more important than learning, or being right more important than the relationship, or the address of where we live more important than the people living together. It happens between parent and child when a parent places greater significance on the son's or daughter's profession than on that son's or daughter's happiness. Like in the parable of Jesus, where we sit at table takes on greater meaning than the people who gather or the meal that is shared. That is what pride does. It distorts what is real and shifts the focus of life to ourselves. The antidote? A prayerful awareness of who we are and who God is. ●

Reflect

What is more important to me than it should be?

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 14:11



ST. BARBARA PARISH

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Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

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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

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

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

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164



CCD Update:

As the new CCD year approaches, we like to remind parents and students know that we will have registration on Sunday, August 31st after 9:00am Mass. Registration forms are available on our website: www.bureauatholic.org

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of September 1, 2025

Monday	9/1			† No Mass
Tuesday	9/2	9:00 am	STM Site	† Denise Mini
Wednesday	9/3	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Francis Smith Family
Thursday	9/4	9:00 am	HT Site	† Wayne Pinter
Friday	9/5	9:00 am	STM Site	† Gene & Josie Weberski

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of September 6-7, 2025

Saturday	9/6	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	9/7	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† Kathleen Schmit

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

(September 1st, World Day of Prayer of the Care of Creation)

We marvel at the extent of God's care for us and His boundless mercy towards us, and we remember that it is through the gift of His creation that God provides for His children. In Genesis 1:26, we read "Then God said: 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.' " Man is the high point of God's creation, and one of the ways we resemble God is the dominion God has given us over His creation. And the key word is "dominion", which is not the same as domination or destruction. We are called to exercise dominion over the earth, which means acting as good and responsible stewards. We must help the earth produce the food and shelter which we need to survive, in a way that benefits all and does not destroy the earth.

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. . . Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other." Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth* (Caritas in Veritate) #48, 51

"The vocation of being a 'protector,' however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live.... Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." Pope Francis, Homily at Inaugural Mass, 2013

"The world that God created has been entrusted to us. Our use must be directed by God's plan for creation, not simply our own benefit. Our stewardship of the Earth is a form of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by concern for generations to come." USCCB, *Faithful Citizenship* #15.

(excerpted from "www.stbonaventure.org")

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: *Proclaiming Christ yesterday, today, forever.*

Next weekend, September 6-7, we will begin our Annual Diocesan Appeal, which is an opportunity to help the Catholic Diocese of Peoria raise necessary funds for many ministries and apostolates that we as a single parish cannot offer. This week, parishioners throughout the Diocese will receive a mailing asking for a pledge to support the Appeal. The mailing will include a pledge card and a return envelope addressed directly to the Diocese. You can make a one time gift or make a pledge over eight months. We will also have pledge cards available in the pews next weekend. Thank you for your continuing support of our parish, diocese, and the work of the Church throughout the world.

Latest Offering's

August 24th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,070.00



Next Confessions

Confession will be

Sat. September 6th

10:30am-11:15am

HT site in the

Confessional

Dear Padre,

Is it sacrilegious to throw away a sacramental?

"Sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do, but by the Church's prayer, they prepare us to receive and dispose us to cooperate with it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1670). Therefore, sacramentals confer grace through the Church's power of prayer and, if blessed, should not be thrown away but burned and/or buried. If the object has not been blessed, it can be discarded; however, it could also be donated to a Catholic ministry (school, prison, hospital, etc.) that would benefit from its distribution. (If a religious object was included in an unsolicited appeal letter from a charitable organization, it is safe to assume that it was not blessed.)

If the object is worn or broken, it should be substantially altered so that it loses its form as a sacramental and then returned to the earthly elements. For example, a worn scapular should be burned and the ashes buried; a damaged statue should be further broken into smaller fragments and buried. A European tradition on the Vigil of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 23) is to burn old sacramentals in bonfires and bury the ashes. Burning and/or burial respects the sacred nature once held by these items and prevents their adaptation for trivial use. Reverence and discretion are proper for whatever method of disposal. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



TACD PHILIP SANSONOWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

To follow [Jesus]...means "carrying one's cross": shouldering, like him, one's own burdens and those of others, making one's life a gift, not a possession, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives.

HOMILY, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

GOOGLE GEMINI



Monday

September 1

Weekday

1 Thes 4:13-18

Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11

Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

September 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Col 1:1-8

Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

September 4

Weekday

Col 1:9-14

Lk 5:1-11

Friday

September 5

Weekday

Col 1:15-20

Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

September 6

Weekday

Col 1:21-23

Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

September 7

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13-18b

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Lk 14:25-33