



# God, Death, and Us

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

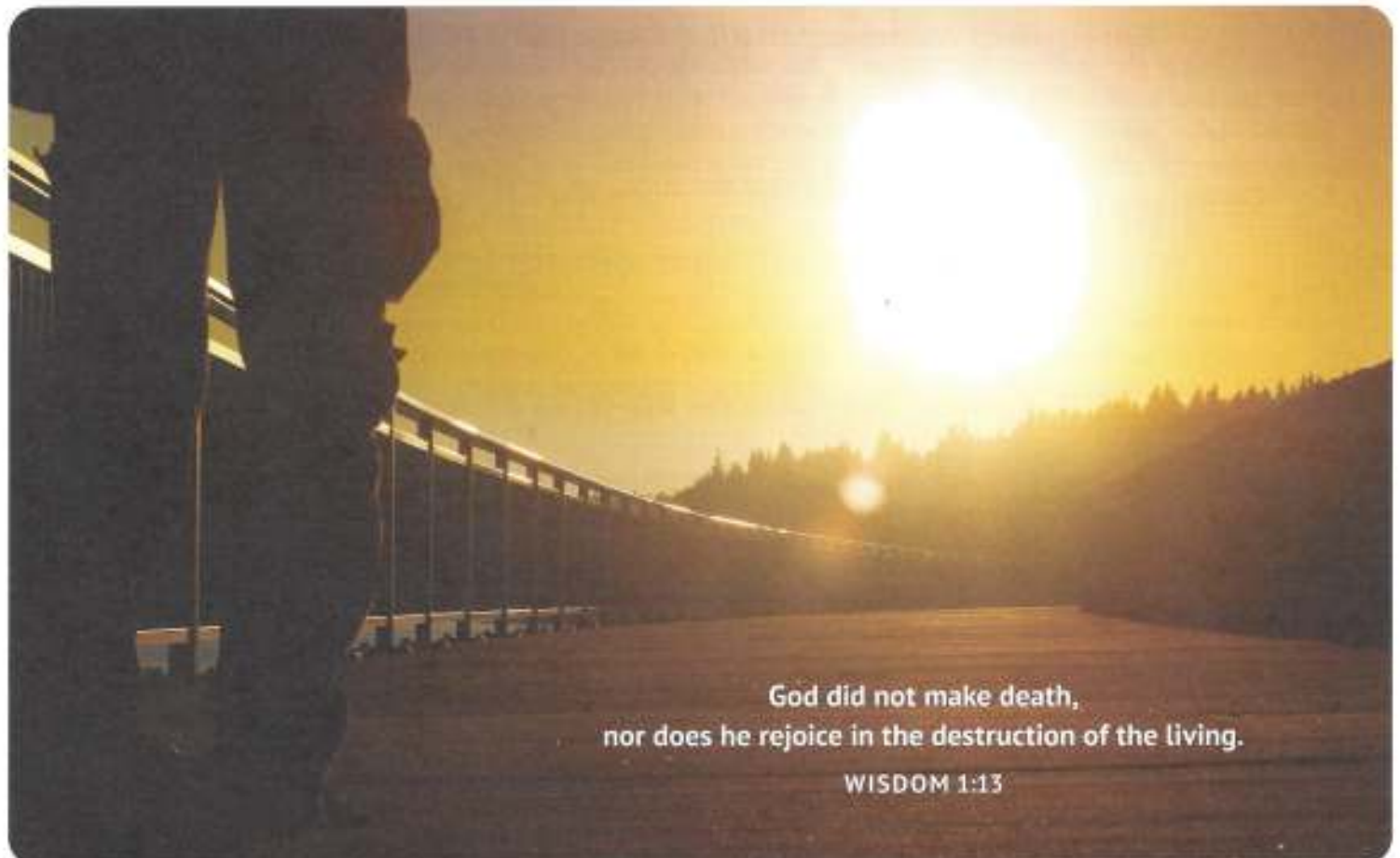
**T**he hospital called, saying a young man had been in an accident and wanted to see a priest. As it turned out, I found him in a coma, and it was his parents who sparked the phone call. His girlfriend was there, and so the two of us talked about the accident and what happened, then about Michael and his interests and gentleness, and eventually his faith and goodness. She didn't understand, she told me, why God would do this to someone so good and how God certainly must have wanted this to happen.

I wanted to tell her I didn't believe God did this sort of thing, orchestrating traffic accidents. I hesitated, but then said so, only I tried to say it gently and kindly so it might be less like a lecture in Spirituality 101. I mumbled something about not believing in that sort of God, that I didn't believe God handed out death or suffering to folks. With her head hanging down, she just said, no—she thought God did.

Well, it seemed to me that that was not the time for any theological debate on questions about God, so I simply said no more about it. Then she and I prayed for Michael, or rather I prayed aloud, and she just sat there holding my hand and maybe praying silently or maybe not praying at all—I really wasn't sure. After I left I found myself wondering if she thought as much about my response as I thought about her answer. ●

## Reflect

*Where do you find God when bad things happen?*





**Holy Trinity**

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**St. Thomas More**

St Thomas More Catholic Church  
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**Adoration Room at STM**  
Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
9 am - 6 pm

**Office Hours at Holy Trinity**  
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm



**St. Patrick**

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**Website for the Three Churches**  
www.bureaucatholic.org  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



For your information, Julie will be out of the office from June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Kristin with any questions or concerns.

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of July 1, 2024**

Monday	7/1			† No Mass
Tuesday	7/2	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass
Wednesday	7/3	5:30 pm	HT	† No Mass
Thursday	7/4	9:00 am	HT	† No Mass
Friday	7/5	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of July 6 - 7, 2024**

Saturday	7/6	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Clydia Marena
Sunday	7/7	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† For the Parishioners
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Dec. Mem. Kenny & Bonnell Fam.

## A RELIGIOUS THOUGHT ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

As we get ready for the 4th of July celebration, let us reflect on some of the basic religious principles with help the founding fathers put together the Declaration of Independence.

Our founding fathers believed that religion, virtue, and morality based on the natural law were essential foundations for the success of the American Experiment. In his farewell address, George Washington declared: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness." John Adams wrote: "It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. Religion and virtue are the only foundations... of republicanism and of all free governments." As Catholics, we agree with this vision of our founding fathers. Recently, Pope Francis said something very similar in the following words: "When, in the name of an ideology, there is an attempt to remove God from society, it ends up adoring idols, and very soon men and women lose their way, their dignity is trampled and their rights violated."

The Catholic Church is at the forefront today in advocating and fighting for these indispensable supports of our nation and its freedom: for example, in defending the right to life and the truth about marriage. Through this Fortnight for Freedom, we are responding to an aggressive secularism in our society. We are standing up for our faith, to be sure. We are also standing up for the self-evident truths proclaimed by our founding fathers. We stand against the subjectivism and relativism that seeks to sever freedom from its indispensable foundation in truth. We stand up for the freedom not only to worship, but also to live our faith without government coercion to violate the sacred sanctuary of our conscience. Pope Francis says: "Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly, according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth." *-An excerpt from Bishop Rhoades' homily at Mass on July 4, 2015*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### *This Weekend's Visiting Priest*

Father Rogers was born in Kabale, Uganda, in East Africa on March 9, 1960, and was ordained July 7, 1991. He taught and offered spiritual direction at the Apostles of Jesus Kiserian minor seminary in Kenya for a time and worked as pastor of St. Luke Church in Loitikitok and Ugandan Martyrs Church in Kibirichia, both in Kenya, before coming to the United States in 2001. He was named assistant chaplain at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria that year and has been chaplain at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington since 2013. We would like to thank Fr. Rogers for his precious help.

### *Growing Disciples - Most Recent Update*

Although July 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of the Growing Disciples implementation, it is the Bishop's wishes that we should do it with the utmost caution, which means taking time to do it properly. Also, it is good to know the Diocese is working to develop a comprehensive manual that consists of a checklist of tasks for the preparation period.

### *Family Vacations*

It's that time of the year for family vacations. We would like to wish all our parishioners a fun and safe time during your travels and enjoy the time with family. Also please put your church on your to do list and send your envelopes in to help with the expenses. Thank you.



### LATEST OFFERING'S

#### JUNE 23RD WEEKEND

HT – \$ 875.00

SP – \$ 264.00

STM – \$1,166.00



### CONFESSIONS

NEXT CONFESSIONS  
WILL BE SAT. JULY 6TH  
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM AT  
ST. THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL

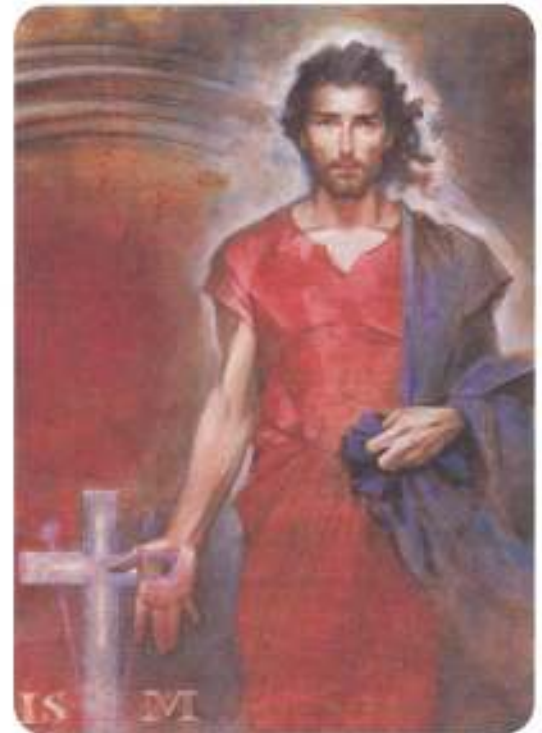
# Dear Padre,

## Does God have a plan for each of us?

We collaborate with God through continual prayer and discernment in planning out our best path of life. This path allows us to fulfill God's ultimate plan—namely, to find meaning in the life he gave us, enjoy his friendship while on earth, and spend eternal life with him in heaven.

God doesn't force us to live out our existence in some programmed, robotic way according to a predestined plan or inevitable fate over which we have no control. Rather, we're free and responsible for our own actions.

Moreover, God's plan for each of us is to experience his profound love and love him in return. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). As the supreme sign of God's love, his plan of salvation from the beginning of time was to send us his only begotten Son. "Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains...in his first sermon on Pentecost: 'This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599). "By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part" (CCC 604). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Weekday	Weekday	St. Thomas, Apostle	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 2:6-10, 13-16 Mt 8:18-22	Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12 Mt 8:23-27	Eph 2:19-22 Jn 20:24-29	Am 7:10-17 Mt 9:1-8	Am 8:4-6, 9-12 Mt 9:9-13	Am 9:11-15 Mt 9:14-17	Ez 2:2-5 2 Cor 12:7-10 Mk 6:1-6a

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Let Jesus look at and heal your heart.... And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step.... Love alone heals life.*

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021