



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22, 2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat., Aug. 21st—21st Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Michael Robinson (anniv.)
Req Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun., Aug. 22nd—21st--Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Monday, Aug. 23rd—St. Rose of Lima

7:30 AM +William J. Hoder

Tuesday, August 24th—St. Bartholomew

7:30 AM Health & God's Blessings
Req Cynthia & Armindo Linhares

Wednesday, August 25th--St. Louis

7:30 AM +William J. Hoder

Thursday, Aug. 26th—Weekday

7:30 AM +Alice & +Fred Nazarchyk
Req. Kathy & Laura Rusinoski

Friday, August 27th—St. Monica

7:30 AM +Sister M. Benilda, FSSJ
(month's mind)

Saturday, August 28th—St. Augustine

7:30 AM +Walter & +Helen Palys
Req. Family

Sat., Aug. 28th—22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Paul Willette (anniv.)
Req. Ann Bodzioch Robinson

Sun., Aug. 29th--22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Alice Sieczkowski Kennedy
(5th year anniversary)
Req. Family

THIS WEEK THE CHURCH CELEBRATES...

St. Rose of Lima (August 23rd), the first canonized saint of the New World. When her parents refused to let her enter the convent, she lived a life of penance and prayer at home, where she cared for homeless children, the elderly, and the sick.

St. Bartholomew (August 24th), one of the twelve apostles, who is believed to be the same as Nathaniel. In St. John's Gospel, Jesus called him an Israelite...incapable of deceit. The Roman Martyrology says he preached in India and Greater Armenia, where he was scourged and beheaded by the king.

St. King Louis IX of France (August 25), who took an oath at his coronation to behave as God's anointed and to perform his kingly duties in the light of faith. Devoted to his people, he founded hospitals, visited the sick, cared for people with leprosy, and alleviated the sufferings of the poor.

St. Monica (August 26), the mother of St. Augustine. Given in marriage to a licentious pagan, her prayers and example eventually won him and her cantankerous mother-in-law to Christianity and her apostate son, Augustine, back to the Faith.

St. Augustine of Hippo (August 28th), who, through the prayers of his holy mother and the preaching of St. Ambrose, began a new life. He received baptism, became a priest, a bishop, a prolific spiritual writer, a founder of a religious order (the Augustinians), and a great saint.

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

In a recent homily, I made a brief reference to sacramentals as I spoke to you about the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Today I would like to say a little more about sacramentals and their role in our Catholic lives.

Perhaps this story will serve to shed some light. A hiker was touring one of our southwestern deserts and became lost. He hoped that if he flashed the sun in the mirror that he happened to have in his backpack, someone might see the light and come to his rescue. And that's exactly what happened. The mirror did not directly save him, but it was instrumental in bringing him help.

Sacramentals are something like that. Of themselves, they do not save souls as sacraments do. But they are a *means* for securing heavenly help for those who use them properly—never superstitiously. They can prepare the soul for grace and can even drive away evil spirits.

Sacramentals can be **religious ceremonies** (processions, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, etc.), **prayers and rites** (e.g., at wakes for the deceased, for blessing people and objects,), **holy items** (rosaries, medals, holy water, etc.), or sacred signs (genuflections, sign of the cross, etc.).

These are examples of various helps for us to obtain life-giving graces. But they must never take on more importance than the sacraments, in which Jesus Himself is present to us.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad

August 22, 2021

AT THE END-OF-AUGUST:

"Summer's lease hath all too short a date," said William Shakespeare in his famous Sonnet 18. Boy, does it ever.

Another summer will soon be gone, seemingly before it even got started. Where did it go?

But the change of seasons gives us the opportunity to reflect on where we are in our spiritual lives and where our prayer lives fit in.

Here is a prayer of thanks as we draw closer to summer's end:

Thank you, God, for the pleasures of summer,

The bright sunny days and moonlit evenings,

The smells of mowed grass and the fragrance of the air after a rain.

Thank you for days at the beach

And evenings watching fireflies,

For vacations and festivals,

Picnics and cookouts, baseball and concerts and Bermuda shorts and ice-cream.

Thank you for the fireworks and thunderstorms,

For watermelon sweetness,

For summer's pace and summer's grace,

For all your beauty and power and faithfulness displayed in summer.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 22, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

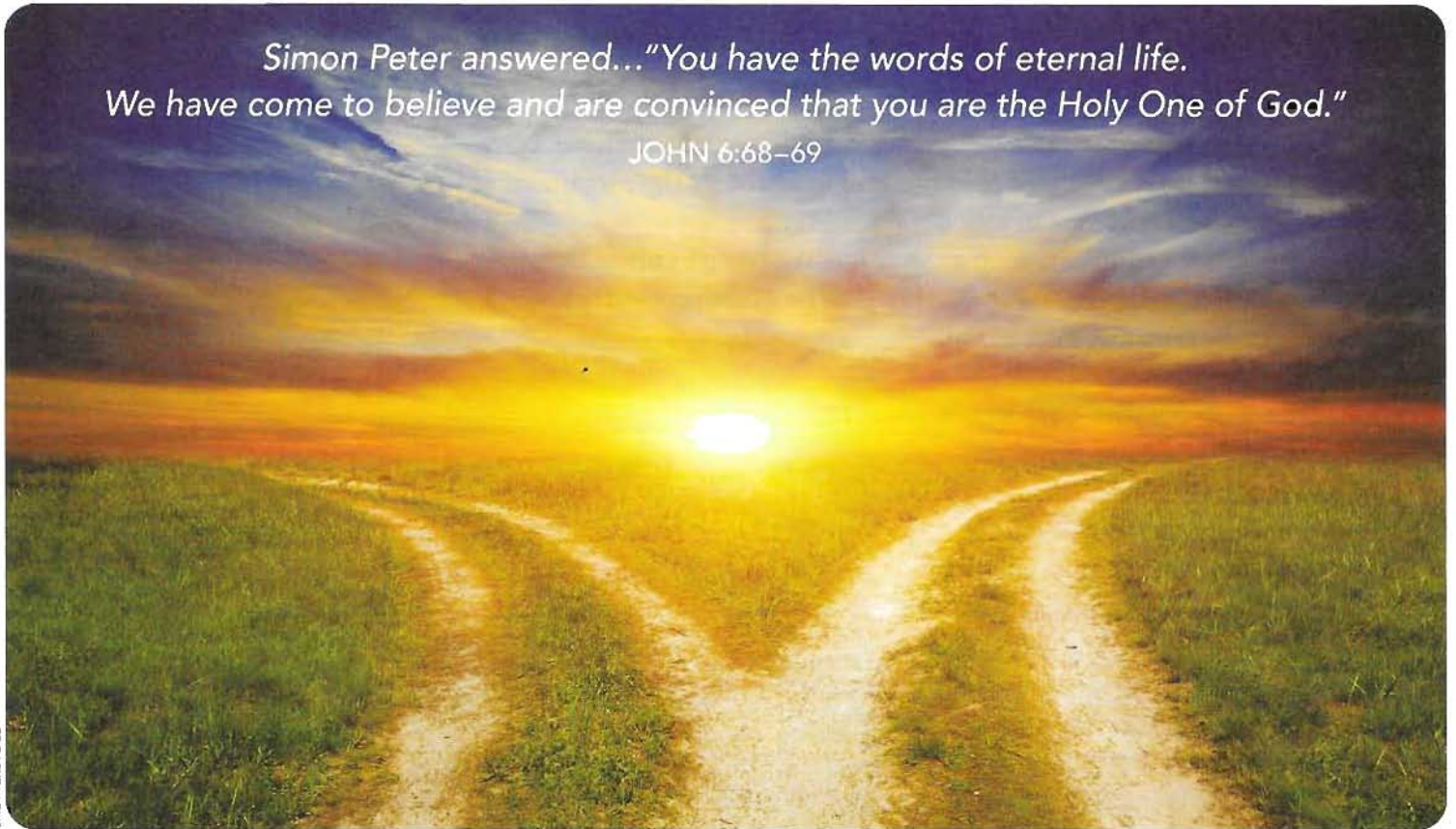
Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

Jn 6:60-69

Simon Peter answered... "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

JOHN 6:68-69



SHUTTERSTOCK

Make Up Your Mind

One can say that life is a series of choices. You have to make up your mind; which shall it be? Some of these choices are insignificant: red or green? Others are much more important: To what shall I commit my life? Shall I get married? There are some choices that are even more momentous: What kind of a person do I want to be—trustworthy or crafty? Should I even bother with God and religion?

Having spent a lifetime in the wilderness, the Israelites were poised in the land of the Amorites, ready to enter the land promised to them by God. Before they moved forward, a pressing decision had to be made. Which god were they going to worship? A Canaanite god who presumably made the land before them fertile and inviting? Or the God who delivered them from Egypt, fed them in the wilderness, brought them safely to this point, and yet with whom they

quarreled throughout their wilderness sojourn? Joshua voiced his decision: "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Jesus' declaration of himself as "the bread of life" (John 6:35) troubled many people. It was then, and still is today, a difficult saying. It was repulsive to many, and they thought that Jesus sounded blasphemous. Those who could not accept his claim, left him. He asked his closest followers, as he asks us today: "Do you also want to leave?" Speaking for all, Peter replied: "Master, to whom shall we go?" (John 6:67-68). How might you answer?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- *What decisions of conscience has life placed before you? How did you decide?*
- *Trust in God's care and protection even if you might have chosen better.*

Dear Padre,

My husband has vascular dementia and is unable to make an examination of conscience. Part of the anointing of the sick involves the confession of sins, so will it be valid when he receives it?

If circumstances permit, the sacrament of anointing of the sick may be preceded by the sacrament of penance and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1517).

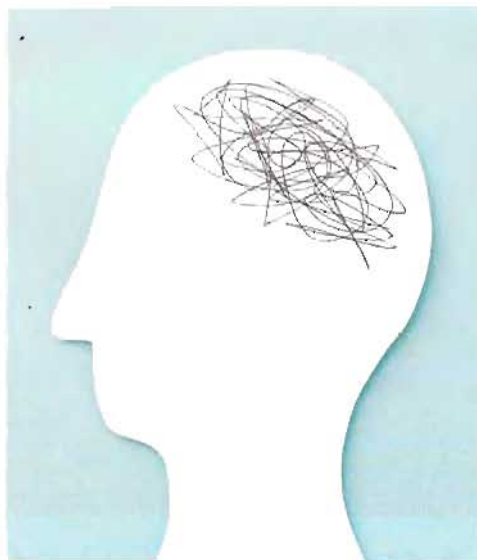
However, when conditions such as your husband's don't allow this, judgment on the suitability for anointing is to be made prudently and without scruple (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*, 8). For example, anointing is conferred on people who have lost consciousness or the use of reason if, as Christian believers, they would have "at least implicitly asked for it when they were in control of their faculties" (*PCS* 14). Therefore, because of the degree of brain-function loss in this circumstance, the sacrament of anointing also absolves any sins.

When a habitual desire to die as a faithful Catholic is implied before a person's illness, the special grace of the sacrament of anointing has this as one of its effects: "the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance" (*CCC* 1532).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

When someone is sick, we at times think: "Let's call for the priest to come"; "No, then he will bring bad luck. Let's not call him."...The idea is floating about that the undertakers arrive after the priest, and this is not true....It is Jesus himself who comes to relieve the sick person...and also to forgive his sins.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, FEBRUARY 26, 2014



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Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 23
Weekday
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10
Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday
AUGUST 24
St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14
Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday
AUGUST 25
Weekday
1 Thes 2:9-13
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday
AUGUST 26
Weekday
1 Thes 3:7-13
Mt 24:42-51

Friday
AUGUST 27
St. Monica
1 Thes 4:1-8
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday
AUGUST 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Thes 4:9-11
Mt 25:14-30

Sunday
AUGUST 29
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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