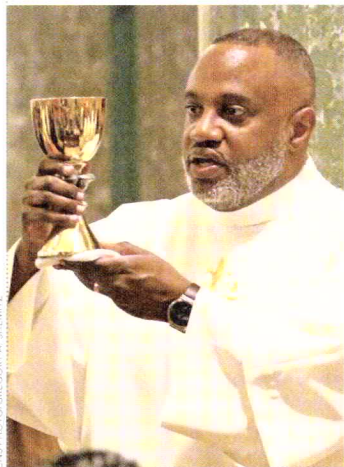


# Dear Padre,

## After Mass a friend told me I belonged to “the priesthood of believers.” I’m not a priest! What did she mean?

**A**t baptism, all of us became part of the laity. The word *laity* comes from the Greek word *laos*, which means “people.” The laity are the people of God. As people of God, we all share in the priesthood of Christ. This is why the Church speaks of the “priesthood of all believers,” because when we were baptized we were incorporated into Christ’s priesthood. Each of us is called to exercise our common priesthood within the Church, strengthening and serving each other. The exercise of priesthood means, above all, to serve.

The Church speaks of Jesus as our High Priest, the one who offers himself as the sacrificial animal. Jesus is the priest and victim, offering himself as a sacrifice to God. The priesthood that Jesus exercises is one of self-giving. All those who are called to the priesthood of Christ are called to serve as he did, offering themselves in a spirit of service and love.



This “priesthood of all believers” shouldn’t be confused with the sacrament of Holy Orders, which ordains to the office of bishop, priest, or deacon. These men are called by God and ordained by the Church to exercise the particular ministry of preaching the good news and administering the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. During Mass, the ordained priest represents Christ and also acts on behalf of all the people of God. His sacramental priesthood represents the common priesthood of the whole Church.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

### Calendar

**Monday**  
MAY 18  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 16:11–15  
Jn 15:26–16:4a

**Tuesday**  
MAY 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 16:22–34  
Jn 16:5–11

**Wednesday**  
MAY 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1  
Jn 16:12–15

**Thursday**  
MAY 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 18:1–8  
Jn 16:16–20

**Friday**  
MAY 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 18:9–18  
Jn 16:20–23

**Saturday**  
MAY 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 18:23–28  
Jn 16:23b–28

**Sunday**  
MAY 24  
The Ascension  
of the Lord  
Acts 1:1–11  
Eph 1:17–23  
Mt 28:16–20



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21

## What Is Your Hope?

**W**e have hopes for ourselves and others. We hope for good health, for fulfilling work, for settled lives for our children. As valuable as such hope might be, that is not what Peter is referring to in today’s second reading. He is talking about religious hope. Not hope *that*, but hope *in*. Not hope that God will give us what we ask, that God will supply what we cannot accomplish, that God will reward our faithfulness. That is also valid hope, but it is still not religious hope.

Genuine religious hope is hope or trust in God. Period. Trust in God when we have no idea what the future might bring. Trust in God when all our best plans crumble before us. Trust in God when we face the terrors of illness and death. This is a trust or hope for which we do not provide God plans to follow so our needs get met as we think they should be. It is a hope that enables us to place ourselves into the hands of God. Period.

This kind of hope asks for nothing and expects everything. Why? Because we are convinced that God loves us with a passion we can’t possibly imagine and, therefore, wants what is best for us. This might seem like an impossible hope, but the reading goes on to list reasons to hope. God’s love is exemplified by Jesus Christ, who “suffered for sins...that he might lead you to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Who could ask for more?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Always be ready to give an explanation  
to anyone who asks you for a reason  
for your hope.

1 PETER 3:15



### Reflection

- Think of times when you were surprised by God’s love.
- Pray for the gift of genuine religious hope.

### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

There are so many people waiting for us to go out and meet them and look at them with the tenderness that we have experienced and received from our relationship with God. That is where our power lies: not in our ideals and in our personal projects, but rather in the strength of his mercy.

—ADDRESS TO THE ORDER OF AUGUSTINIAN RECOLLECTS,  
OCTOBER 20, 2016





St. Anthony's Church 600 Soderberg Street (PO Box 983), Lakin, KS 67860

355-6405, 408-5538– Email: [saintanthonylakin@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonylakin@gmail.com) <https://www.saintanthonylakin.org/>

\*\*\*SUNDAY, May 17, 2020 \*\*\*

Even though all public celebrations of the Holy Mass are cancelled until further notice, daily Masses are still offered by Fr. Peter. When you watch the livestreamed Mass, please remember to pray for the following Intentions. Let's joyfully celebrate the most important mystery of our faith: the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA—HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

Sunday, May 17	Neal Cahoj, Paul Temaat
Monday, May 18	Wayne Miller
Tuesday, May 19	For our Country
Wednesday, May 20	St. Raphael's Women & Men
Thursday, May 21	Mary Perez
Friday, May 22	For our Country
Saturday, May 23	For The People & our Country
Sunday, May 24	Pedro H. Asebedo & Thanksgiving—Special Intention

**FORMED. Org** *We are grateful to the love & generosity of Sts. Anthony & Raphael's donors that make FORMED. Org available to our parishes this year. May the Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon them!*

**FORMED. Org** is an online resource with a lot of different Catholic program, movies, books, and talks, designed to be accessible anywhere at anytime (on smartphones, tablets, and computers). This tool is open to All Parishioners in the Three Parishes. All you have to do is sign up and you will be equipped to learn, experience, or even teach your Catholic faiths in ways like never before. **How to sign-up:** 1. Go to [www.Formed.org](http://www.Formed.org) 2. Click Sign Up 3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization" 4. Find **St. Anthony & Raphael** by parish name, address, or zip code 5. Enter your email - and you're in! (You will be asked to Create a New Account. Type in our account name, St. Anthony & Raphael. Type in your name and your email address. Finally, check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

**COLLECTION** for May 10: Envelopes: \$585; Online Giving: \$1,431.12; Total \$2,016.12; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (26.57) Maintenance Fund: \$209.65. Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

**VOCATION VIEW:** The Spirit of truth is within you. You are not alone. Reflect on how God is calling you at this time in your life. (John 14:15-21). If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Juan Salas at 620-227-1533 or [vocations@dcdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@dcdiocese.org).

**WORD OF LIFE:** "As Americans, as Catholics and as pastors of our people, we write therefore today to call our fellow citizens back to our country's founding principles, and most especially to renew our national respect for the rights of those who are unborn, weak, disabled and terminally ill. Real freedom rests on the inviolability of every person as a child of God."

**CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Q.** A friend of mine asked me how you go about seeking out a faith or religion when there are so many different religions based on different beliefs. How do you know what's right? He said it feels like the story of the blind men and the elephant. None of them has the whole picture. What can I tell him? **A.** This question could be answered in either a very complex and philosophical way or in a very simple and straightforward way. Perhaps I'll shoot for somewhere in the middle. I believe the story you are referring to is where several blind men are taken to "see" an elephant. Each touches the elephant feeling a different part. One touches the tusks, one the tail, one the ear, the trunk, side, etc. Each has a different experience of what the elephant is. And each comes away with only a portion of understanding of an elephant. Some have suggested that this is what all the many religions of the world do. Each has a small piece of the truth but no one has the whole picture. But let me take the analogy further. What would happen if one of those blind men were healed and could now see? And what if that person then had the opportunity to spend many days with elephants? He studied them, watched them and learned all he could about them. I suggest that this is what our Catholic faith offers. The gift of sight! It's an interesting analogy to use here because Jesus is well known for curing the blind. This miraculous action of Jesus teaches us, among other things, that He desires to open our eyes of faith to see the fullness of Truth. As Catholics, we believe that the fullness of that Truth is found within the Catholic Church. We do not deny the portions of truth that may be found in other religions (such as the truth that we should be kind to others), but we confidently profess that only the Catholic faith presents us with the fullest revelation of what is revealed by God. So, I believe that the real question is, "How does one discover that fullness of revelation and Truth within the Catholic Church?" This is what we call the gift of faith! Sometimes faith is misunderstood. One may think that faith is nothing more than believing something. If that's the definition of faith then we could have "faith" that there are aliens if we just believe it. Or, I could have "faith" that I'm going to win the lottery tomorrow if I just believe. But that's not true. True faith begins with God. It begins with God revealing Himself and all that is true to us. He speaks to our conscience in such a way that we gain a sort of spiritual certainty that something is true. This revelation from God then requires our ascent. When we ascent, or accept, what God says to us we suddenly have the supernatural gift of faith and we know, without a shadow of a doubt, that what God spoke is true. This may seem confusing so all I can tell you is that true faith and true knowledge of God is possible. It's possible to know, without any doubt, that all God has revealed to us, especially through his Church, is true. I suggest you tell your friend to seek the Truth and be open to the Voice of God. If he is truly open, I trust God will reveal this Truth to him preparing him for the incredible gift of Faith! (*Online Catholic Q & A*)

**SUNDAY MEDITATION** *He will give you another Advocate. (John 14:16)* "You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you." This familiar phrase is part of the "Miranda warning" that police officers give to any person they arrest. It's based on the belief that no one should stand alone when facing charges. Someone has to be there to make sure the accused is given a fair trial. It must be consoling for the accused person to have someone by their side at their trial to help them face their accuser with dignity and courage. Isn't it interesting that this is how Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in today's Gospel? The Greek word for "Advocate," *parakletos*, also means defense attorney. It's especially interesting when we remember that the Scriptures portray the devil as our "adversary" who never stops hurling accusations against us (Zechariah 3:1; Revelation 12:9-10). This means that we don't have to stand before the devil's accusations alone. Jesus has given us the Spirit so that we can stand up against the lies of the evil one. He has given us the best defense attorney in history. Someone who will assure us that we have been forgiven. Someone who will remind us of God's love for us. Someone who sees our sins and failings but who also sees the true desires of our hearts and never gives up on us. Always remember the Holy Spirit, your defender, especially when you start thinking that you're no good or that God has given up on you. Remember him when you begin to doubt the goodness of God's plans for you and your loved ones. Every day of your life, be sure that you spend time listening for the Holy Spirit. Let him convince you over and over again that you belong to Christ and that no one can snatch you out of his hands. "*Spirit of truth, help me to withstand every temptation*"