

Dear Padre,

What is spiritual direction? How does it differ from counseling?

In spiritual direction, a person is guided in a process of reflection, self-discovery, and recognition of God's presence in human experience; the primary focus is on one's relationship with God. Thus, in one sense, it is the Lord himself who is the "director" in all spiritual direction. In counseling, a person is also guided in a process of reflection and self-discovery; but the primary focus is on human growth and development. Counseling does not presuppose a person's faith or relationship with God; spiritual direction cannot be complete without it. Both spiritual direction and counseling share the same expectations of openness and honesty in the process; they share the same standards of confidentiality and professional conduct. Moreover, spiritual direction is similar to counseling in its aim toward human growth and development, but it further aims toward holiness and "toward ever more intimate union with Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2014). That union is twofold: a personal relationship with Christ and with Christ's Church. "This union is called 'mystical' because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments" (CCC 2014). "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness: 'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect'" (CCC 2013). ●

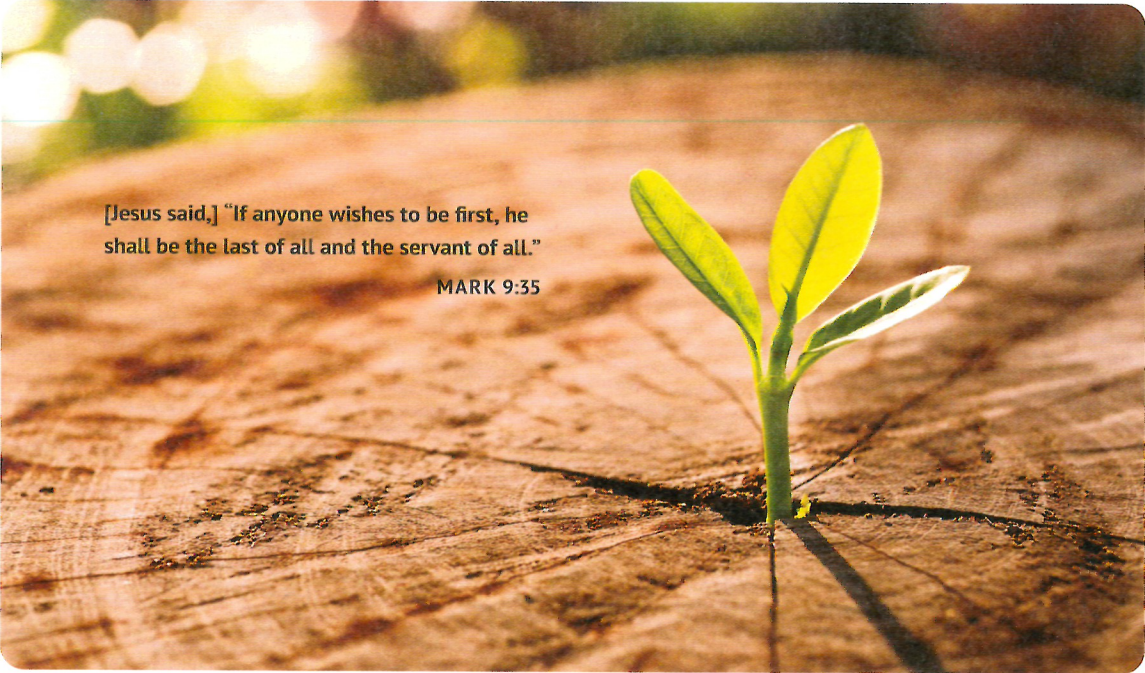
Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



SEVENTYFOUR / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 22, 2024
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Wisdom 2:12, 17–20 / James 3:16–4:3 / Mark 9:30–37



[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."
MARK 9:35

Learning How to Die Well

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Karl Rahner was a German Jesuit priest and a leading theologian of the twentieth century. He once observed that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well. On first hearing this, we may be much like the disciples who didn't understand Jesus when he spoke of his own need to enter death (see Mark 9:31–32). How do we learn to "die well"? If we forgo the need to always have our own way, if we forgive and resist the impulse to get revenge, if we are sensitive to the needs of others even when it's inconvenient, if we care for the child among us, whether that "little one" be five, forty-five, or eighty-five—if we practice a willingness to die in such ways, then when it comes time for us to make that final journey of our earthly lives, it will not be as frightening because we will have been there before. Furthermore, if we learn how to die well, our lives will take on new meaning. The focus of our lives will not be on ourselves, but on others and their needs. We will find ourselves less disappointed when life doesn't go our way. Blue moods will evaporate more readily. We will have a greater interest in daily life. In other words, the very aspects that once seemed to drag us down will become doorways to hope and renewed life. What once seemed to have been a kind of death will become an avenue to faith in the resurrection. ●

Reflect

Have you ever "died to yourself" and then experienced a resurrection?



CHAMELONSEVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by service. Not on what someone has, but on what someone gives. Do you want to be first? Serve.... [Service] has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means to act like Jesus.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

September 22, 2024 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ST. JUDE PARISH

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass **CELEBRANT:**

Sunday	Sept. 22, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thurs.	Sept. 26, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Communion Svc	Deacon Jim
Sunday	Sept. 29, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Fabio
Thurs.	Oct. 3, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Sept. 22, 2024	Bob Lewis	By: Claire Miller
Thurs.	Sept. 26, 2024	Edward & Eleanor Kazak	By: Mr. & Mrs. John Kancauski
Sunday	Sept. 29, 2024	Richard Frayder	By: Darlen Hollar
Thurs.	Oct. 3, 2024	Mary Laughlin	By: Sadie Payne

TODAY: **SUNDAY, 09-22-24** **NEXT SUNDAY:** **SUNDAY, 09-29-24**

Reader	Ellen Brown	Reader	Bruce Herschleb
EO Ministers	Jennifer P. & Diane H.	EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen
Servers	Alexa, Carlina, Lydia, Alanah	Servers	Rocky, Bo, Hazel, Bella

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Sep. 15, 2024	Target	\$ 1,600	Offered	\$1547.00	\$(53.00)
Year to Date		Target	\$21,7000	Offered	\$21,561.50	\$(138.50)
Attendance		118	Year To Date Attendance		1516	

We are called to be servants to others.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for what is coming. This is the second time in Mark's Gospel that he has told them about the passion and death he must endure and the resurrection that would follow. But the disciples weren't getting it; they didn't understand what Jesus was talking about. How could they? Everything he was saying was so foreign to them that it made sense that they were confused.

One might think that the disciples were curious, that they wanted to know more, to understand what Jesus was talking about. But they did not engage with the topic, and all we know is that *they were afraid to question him*.

Instead, they move on to a different question, one they are not afraid to broach with Jesus: Who among them is the greatest, the second in command? **Jesus answers that it is the last, the servant of all. He says that to receive a child in his name is to receive him, and whoever receives him receives the one who sent him – the Father.**

Jesus is focused on what will happen, while the disciples engage in speculation. Jesus wants to change the disciples' thinking; He wants to teach them that they will be judged based on the humility with which they serve others, not how important they are.

Humility, service, and childlike faith are qualities of the kingdom. We might argue that curiosity, as a child is curious, is also a kingdom quality because it is a desire to know God more and more and to be fearless in seeking that knowledge. The disciples clearly did not exhibit these attributes in this exchange.

This is an opportunity for us to reflect on and change, as necessary, how we think about our relationship with God. Instead of focusing solely on worldly things, we can seek Godly wisdom and strive to be more Christ-like in our way of life.

Ultimately, as Jesus Christ is the suffering servant, the one sacrifice made for all, we imitate him in our love for and service to others. We must pray for the grace to be who he asks us to be and do what he asks us to do: to live humbly and serve one another in love.

FROM THE DRE:

The Ice Cream Social was awesome! Thanks to all who helped.
If you haven't already, please turn in all paperwork and fees ASAP.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **CASEY ZIEMBA**
By request of St. Jude Parish*

PRAYER CHAIN – If you would like to join our prayer chain, or if you have someone you would like them to pray for, please contact the office. Thanks.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

THE PARISH PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE will be meeting on Sunday, September 29, after Mass. We're always looking for new members. If you're interested, please feel free to attend. Thanks!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER - Toothpaste, garlic powder, pepper, cold cereal and muffin mix. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

ROSARY COAST TO COAST - on Sunday, October 6, 2024. Location: K of C Red Arrow Hwy, Paw Paw, MI. Time: 4:00 P.M. EST (Prayed in unison all across the USA). Contact: Deborah Leath 574-210-1706 text or dmcnab51@hotmail.com

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another. Today Jesus tells us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

A NEW WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

FROM THE DIOCESE

JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME - Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 and looking for a way to grow closer to Christ during the 2025 Jubilee? Consider joining the 2025 Youth Jubilee in Rome, July 27-August 7, 2025. Join young Catholics from all over the world to explore Rome and Assisi. For more information, contact Santiago Banda, sbanda@diokzoo.org.

KDCCW DAY OF REFLECTION - Mark your calendars for a Day of Reflection on The Dignity of Life through Natural Death on Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake Parish in New Buffalo. The Day will include Mass, talks on a variety of topics around natural death like end-of-life decisions, Catholic funerals, and more. Registration is a \$20 donation (lunch will be included) and can be paid at the door. For more info. or to register, contact Becky Borglin, 269-325-1354.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT BY PROJECT RACHEL - Struggling with the aftermath of abortion? Join us at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat by Project Rachel, November 1-3, 2024. Alongside trained volunteers that work with you and your unique story, experience the transformative freedom of forgiveness and healing. For more information or to register, contact projectrachel@ccwestmi.org or 616-340-1824.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM - FALL 2024 - The Trauma Recovery Program is inviting participants for three different groups this fall. Each group is led by mental health professionals to assist group members to understand and learn skills to help them recover from childhood abuse and neglect. The Program is free, and participants are expected to attend all ten sessions. You call or write to indicate your interest and there will be an interview to answer questions about the program and receive some information about personal history. Call or text 269-779-5322 or email TRA@TraumaRecoveryAssociates.com and give your name and phone number. Thursdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at St Catherine Parish, Portage. Starts October 3 and ends December 12 (no meeting on Thanksgiving)

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.