

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A (2026)

Here’s the question of the day. Who is in charge of your life? To whom do you belong?

Now, take a few seconds and think about it—because it’s a difficult, but an important question to answer. Maybe you’ve never really thought about it. Or maybe you embrace a fierce type of independence that drives you to answer, “I don’t belong to anything or anyone. I’m my own person.”

Yet, if we really take that question seriously (and honestly), we must admit that certain things do indeed acquire our allegiance, have a certain degree of influence, or even control over us.

The obvious ones are the important people in our lives: parents and teachers, spouses and children, and other family members and such.

Of course, we also often give our allegiances to peer groups, sports teams, towns and parishes, and even occasionally to celebrities, clothing brands, car manufacturers, politicians, rock bands, restaurants, or whatever.

In today’s Second Reading, we see Paul addressing this issue in his First Letter to the Corinthians.

By this time in the early Church, divisions were already emerging. Specifically, Paul noticed that believers were beginning to develop allegiances to some of the “all-stars” of the faith community.

In other words, the community was splintering into particular “camps”, particular groups that seemed to be at odds with each other. In Paul’s mind, the only allegiance that truly mattered—the only “belonging” one needed to feel and accept and embrace—was to Christ.

Put simply, a true follower of Jesus belonged to Jesus. Jesus was their Lord. Jesus was the One they followed. Jesus was the One they listened to. Jesus was the One they surrendered their lives to. Jesus was the One they put their hope in. Jesus was “in charge” of their attitudes, of what they believed, and of how they acted.

And so, when we hear this passage from Paul, we are asked to look at our own commitment to Jesus.

Do we truly “belong” to him in the complete way he wants us to, in the complete way Peter, Andrew, James, and John did, dropping everything at Jesus’ invitation? Are WE truly HIS?

One could argue that when it comes to God in this time and place, many of us don’t necessarily truly believe that WE belong to GOD. In fact, we often act as if we believe the exact opposite. GOD belongs to US.

And that can be a problem. That puts us in charge. And so, we often preserve the attitudes we want to hold on to and create a God that fits those attitudes. We make the choices we want to make—and create a God who is okay with those decisions.

We begin to justify just about everything, everything that is not of God, our pettiness and duplicity, our prejudices and lack of compassion, our thirst for revenge and unwillingness to forgive, our pursuit of wealth, and our sense of entitlement, you name it.

GOD belongs to US, so we often simply do what we want to do and create a God who is in step with the way I choose to live my life.

Let's spend some time this week taking a hard look at "who is in charge of my life, my choices, my priorities."

Are they in line with the person I believe Jesus to be, the person I know through Scripture and prayer and the teachings of the Church, the One who gave me everything? Or do I try to align Christ's example, teachings, and expectations with mine?

Jesus taught that our highest priority must be our relationship with Him. If anything, or anyone detracts us from that relationship, that is not from God. God will never ask us to do something that hinders our relationship with Christ.