



Archbishops Are Called to Build Unity, Serve the Truth in Charity

by Carol Glatz/Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With bishops leading the way, every Christian should help build unity in the Church and the world by putting Christ at the center and drawing others near while being attentive to their needs, Pope Leo XIV said.

"Communion within the Church is not built by clinging rigidly to one's own position, but by seeking, in all hearts, points of encounter in the truth, in whose light alone each person becomes a means of growth for another," he said during his homily at Mass on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul June 29.

"It is important for us today to look to these two saints – Peter and Paul – to understand how we, in turn, can be apostles and builders of unity, and generous servants of the truth in charity," he said.

The feast day celebration in St. Peter's Basilica included the traditional blessing of the pallium, the woolen band adorned with crosses that the heads of archdioceses wear around their shoulders over their Mass vestments and symbolizes an archbishop's unity with the pope and his authority and responsibility to care for the flock the pope entrusted to him.

The pallium, Pope Leo said, expresses "the commitment of every shepherd – and also of (see **PALLIUM** p. 5)



Photo Credit: CNS/Lola Gomez

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At Mass on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, Archbishop James Checchio received the pallium from His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV. From June 26 - July 1, Archbishop Checchio was joined by Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond and nearly 100 pilgrims for a special pilgrimage to Rome around the Pallium Mass. As part of our coverage of the Pallium Pilgrimage, we have included several breathtaking photos beginning on p. 9 of this edition. There are more than 200 photos from the Masses and events that were part of the pilgrim's journey online at <https://clarionherald.org/photoalbums/pallium-mass>.



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Left: Archbishop Checchio stands with his mother, Helen Checchio, inside St. Peter's Basilica before the Pallium Mass on June 29. Right: Pope Leo XIV processes into St. Peter's Basilica for the beginning of the Mass for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.

A Q & A With Archbishop James Checchio

Archbishop James F. Checchio of New Orleans spoke with Catholic News Service at the Pontifical North American College in Rome June 29, 2026, after receiving the pallium from Pope Leo XIV that morning. Here is the full transcript of the interview with minor edits for clarity.

Catholic News Service (CNS): When Pope Leo started his pontificate, he highlighted the themes of unity and peace. How do you see your role as Archbishop in helping promote that mission?

Archbishop Checchio: That's certainly a mission that we all want and need in our world today. So it was very providential that was his message. And he also, I think, would additionally use charity, huh? And they're kind of the basis of the Augustinian community, you know, unity, charity, peace, truth. So I think he was a perfect fit for our times for what we need in our world these days.

So my role is obviously to support him and to assist him in doing that as best as I can in my little portion of the vineyard there down in southeastern Louisiana. And certainly, our city responds well. So we're doing our part for sure.

CNS: What are some of the challenges that you've encountered in your archdiocese? What are some of the issues that you feel you need to shepherd the most?

Archbishop Checchio: Well, I think, like a lot of people in our world today, there's not just my diocese, but I think all over the United States and probably most of the advanced world, people are really super involved with their phones and with their

internet and kind of living this parallel life in a way, you know. And I think kind of calling people back into relations and communion is something that we always have to do.

Sometimes you see in restaurants, everybody's on their own phone at a table, you know, not talking. So, I mean, I think kind of one of the challenges I think for us is using social media for evangelization too. Because that's where a lot of people are, and so we're trying to make efforts at that. We started a new office, Office for Evangelization and Communications, so putting them together and trying to reach especially our youth in that way.

CNS: Tell me a little bit more about that. What made you merge the two?

Archbishop Checchio: Well, we're blessed in New Orleans, we're blessed with a large Catholic school system. We have 64 schools, 24 high schools. So we have a lot of our youth in our schools. So that's great. Sometimes, the youth, you don't see them at Mass all the time, you know? So, kind of trying to reach out to them and get to them, the ones that we don't see and have regularly, is a challenge.

We all have to evangelize. That's our mission, all of us. You know, it's in our DNA. It's what we're to do as Jesus' disciples, whether it's 2,000 years ago or now. And so, evangelization, using social communications and new means of evangelization that we can try to break into, especially for our youth, is a priority for us. So we started the new vicariate and we're hiring someone to kind of help him, the priest, in his role of doing that: being creative and reaching out.

CNS: And how did being here in Rome as rector (of the Pontifical North American College) help prepare you in some way, working with young men who were preparing for the priesthood? Was there anything you learned in your time here that's really serving you back home?

Archbishop Checchio: It was a great experience and great preparation for being a diocesan bishop, obviously, working with the young men discerning a vocation because you obviously are deeply involved in their lives, their everyday lives, and their spiritual lives. So it gives you some insight into what priests are doing, too, in the same way.

And keeping our friendship with Jesus a priority in our life is what we teach in the seminary, and making it a priority every day, and letting that feed you and your ministry so you're not just running around doing stuff, doing good pastoral work, but it's actually Jesus that you're sharing from your own friendship with Him, from your own relationship with Him. So, our priests are the same way. They can get busy and get active and overextended. So, it's the same task in a way as trying to shepherd or father, the priest is helping them to keep their identity clear, helping them to keep their mission clear, so they know that they're sharing what they should be sharing, which is Jesus, not doing things for people.

CNS: Describe a little bit of what your archdiocese is like and how Pope Leo has been received. What kind of reaction are you seeing from the people there, not just Catholics?

Archbishop Checchio: Our archdiocese is continued on p. 4

beautiful. It's a historic diocese. Next year will be the 300th anniversary of the dedication of the first St. Louis Church, which became the Cathedral in our diocese when it was made a diocese. So it's 300 years of the faith there.

Where I came from, New Jersey, it was a young diocese. It was one of the youngest dioceses in the country. So that was a big change for me, you know, learning about and appreciating the historicity of an old church for the United States. It was a diocese before the United States existed, and before Louisiana was part of the United States, because we didn't become part of the American church until the Louisiana Purchase. So, kind of learning that.

But the faith was so intermixed between the different succession of people that were there: the Spanish, the French, the Cajuns. They all lived their faith very publicly. And so, so much of the history of Louisiana, the church is ingrained in it. So, they go hand in hand. And that's still the case these days. Even people who aren't Catholic will pray the Rosary, just because it's part of the culture down there.

And we have a lot of young families. We do a "nine church walk" on Good Friday, packed with a lot of young families walking their kids and their strollers through the different churches. And they have a lot of great

traditions down there, which are really very uplifting and so beautiful to find.

I went to the archdiocese in kind of a difficult time for them, just as they were finishing up their bankruptcy. I didn't know anything about the archdiocese before I went there; it wasn't in my region. It wasn't something that I followed or tracked. But what I read in the newspaper was kind of scary, reading about what was going on down there. And when I showed up, it was just completely different. There's a lot of faith there. The people, they love the church, they love their families, they love traditions and they're very loyal people. So that's really resonated in my heart, those qualities, those things that I found. So it's been easy to kind of hit the road running there.

We did the consecration of the Sacred Heart. We took it and made it a priority for the archdiocese. We had nine weeks of spiritual preparation for the consecration of prayer. And then we got images of the Sacred Heart, which we distributed to every household so they could do a home enthronement on the Sunday that we did the consecration in our churches. So people were able to do it that night in their homes and enthrone the Sacred Heart in their home.

And now we're doing a nine-week program on pastoral outreach and evangelization (for) the

fruits of the Sacred Heart. Pope Pius XII told us the fruits of the Sacred Heart are the Eucharist, the priesthood and the Blessed Mother. So, we're using those three things as themes for these nine weeks.

And the end of it will be a "Welcome Home Sunday" in the middle of August, August 14th, where we'll ask everybody to invite one person to come to church with them who doesn't usually come with them. Whether it's inviting someone back who's fallen away or drifted away or someone that's been hurt or someone that's searching, whatever, but to invite one person. So that'll be the end and hopefully the culmination of our Sacred Heart consecration. So the people have responded so well and beautifully.

New Orleans, too, has a beautiful seminary system. I was here at NAC, of course, and NAC's in my heart and always will be, but I'm so blessed to find a beautiful seminary at Notre Dame Seminary next door to where I live. We'll have 145 seminarians next year, so it's a really large seminary, maybe the largest in the country. And we have 100 in the college seminary across the lake, there at St. Joseph's in St. Benedict, Louisiana. So we're blessed with large, vibrant, happy, healthy, holy seminary communities. And that's been a real joy and it's a treasure for our archdiocese. (see **Q & A** p. 7)

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Pope Leo XIV places the pallium, around Archbishop Checchio's shoulders as a symbol of his role as shepherd to the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

PALLIUM

every Christian – to take upon their shoulders the brothers and sisters entrusted to them, like so many lambs of the Lord's flock, and to sacrifice their energy, time, effort and even their lives for them. They do so in order that the Gospel may reach everyone, and the whole world may find in it harmony and concord."

According to the Vatican, 35 archbishops from 19 countries who were named over the past 12 months received the palliums. Four of them were from the United States: Archbishop Mark S. Rivotuso of Mobile, Alabama; Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks of New York; Archbishop James R. Golka of Denver; and Archbishop James F. Checchio of New Orleans.

The pope blessed the palliums after his homily and after they were brought up from

the crypt above the tomb of Saint Peter. Each archbishop, wearing red vestments, then approached Pope Leo by the altar and knelt as the pope placed the pallium over their shoulders. Each shared an embrace with the pope and a few words.

In his homily, the pope reflected on Saints Peter and Paul – two very different saints who were martyred on different days and yet share the same feast day.

Pope Leo called them "two pillars of the Church," who provide important examples for today's bishops and all Christians.

Saint Peter knew how to "acknowledge his mistakes and repent, without becoming discouraged and without failing in his mission to proclaim the Gospel and gather Christ's flock, even unto martyrdom," the pope said.

When a controversial issue threatened to

divide the community, he said, Saint Peter listened to his brothers and made a decision, guided by the Holy Spirit, that preserved communion and ushered in a new era for the entire People of God.

Saint Peter holding the keys represents his "faithful and patient concern for unity," he said, because a key doesn't break down a door, rather it "opens and closes them by finding the proper levers within and guiding their movements, so that locks may release, bolts withdraw and doors turn freely on their hinges, thereby joining rooms together and transforming many isolated spaces into one welcoming home."

"In this light, we can interpret the mission entrusted by the Lord to Peter and his successors for the benefit of the entire holy People of God. It is a mission to listen, with his help, to the voice of each person; to discern inspirations; to guide the way; to correct (see [PALLIUM](#) p. 7)



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Above: An up close look at Archbishop Checchio's pallium. Right: Archbishop Checchio prepares to greet family, friends, clergy and well-wishers gathered at the Pontifical North American College in Rome for a reception following the Pallium Mass.



Photo Credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

PALLIUM

errors; to instruct, encourage, exhort and accompany our brothers and sisters so that, docile to the action of the same Spirit, they may cooperate in the salvation of one another and of all humanity," he said.

Saint Peter's example, therefore, "is an invitation to every Christian to become a builder of unity, placing God at the center of one's life and drawing close to one's brothers and sisters, attentive to their circumstances and needs," he said, so that God's message "might be fully proclaimed."

Saint Paul, whose symbols are the book and the sword, is the "tireless herald of the Good News," he said. The symbols represent the word of God being capable of penetrating and transforming even the hardest of hearts, as was seen with Saint Paul's conversion, who was led away from violence and onto "the path of love," he said.

Saint Augustine said, "God took the persecutor of the Church and made him a messenger of peace. He forgave him all his sins and placed him in a ministry where he could forgive the sins of others," Pope Leo added.

"Let us pray to Saints Peter and Paul that they may sustain us on our journey of communion in the footsteps of the Savior," he said.

Keeping with a long tradition, a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, led by Orthodox Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis of Chalcedon, was present at the Mass.

The pope and the Orthodox metropolitan embraced behind the altar during the exchange of the sign of peace, and they descended the stairs below the main altar to pray at St. Peter's tomb after Mass ended.

Before processing out of the basilica, the pope also stood a few moments in prayer before the

dark bronze statue of Saint Peter, which is clothed on his feast day with ornate vestments and a jeweled tiara.

Saints Peter and Paul understood and proclaimed the Gospel with their own distinctive voice, Pope Leo said before praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Their stark differences do not make them adversaries, he said, on the contrary, "they became the symbol of the many other diversities that the one Spirit unites into a single whole."

"The patron saints of the Church of Rome experienced the challenges of communion; they knew it, served it and proclaimed it as a sacrament of divine life," the pope said. "Their witness has contributed decisively to ensuring that the Christian presence in history is directed not toward dominion, but toward service, unity and reconciliation."

Q & A

CNS: *What's something that both Pope Francis and Pope Leo have invited you to? What's something that resonated with the two of them that you feel you're trying to implement as being a pastor?*

Archbishop Checchio: Pope Francis named me a bishop and assigned me to Metuchen (New Jersey), and it was during the Year of Mercy. So I embraced that. I embraced his year of mercy and made it part of my ministry since then, too.

Pope Leo, you know, his family lived in New Orleans for 200 years. So his fourth great-grandfather was the sexton for our cathedral, for St. Louis Cathedral. And his fourth great-

grandmother, in a parallel line, died in childbirth, sadly. And she and the baby are buried, underneath the cathedral. So he has a lot of history there.

His grandparents moved to Chicago, he told me, and that's why the family, and he grew up there. But he said that they would talk about New Orleans ... a lot, and had a lot of friends and family there.

So New Orleans loves Pope Leo because of the connection, the 200 years that they were in the city. The grandparents lived right across the street from our cathedral, Jackson Square. So they really embraced him and feel like he's one of us. He's made a great impact on our archdiocese.

CNS: *Anything you would like to add about receiving the pallium today?*

Archbishop Checchio: It was a beautiful day, of course, receiving the pallium from Pope Leo an American pope, made it extra special, I think.

It was a bit surreal. As rector here at the North American College, I'd been to pallium services every year and hosted receptions here. For 12 or 13 years, I was at the pallium Mass. So I'd been to a lot of them over the years. But it was a little surreal, especially when you're going up the steps to go get the pallium. You know, it was very moving. The pallium is to yoke us, to bring us together with Peter and his shepherding of the church.

Archbishop Checchio's Upcoming Schedule



Archbishop Checchio immediately after receiving the pallium from Pope Leo on June 29, 2026.

Saturday, July 18 - 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sister Servants of Mary, New Orleans
Sunday, July 19 - Noon, Mass, 50th Anniversary of Cardinal Dolan, Holy Infant Church, Ballwin, MO

Thursday, July 23 - 11 a.m. Our City Our Cathedral Campaign Cabinet Meeting, private

Wednesday, July 29 - 11:15 a.m. Mass and Lunch During Priest Retreat, The Cenacle on the Lake, Metairie

Saturday, August 1 - 1 p.m. Blessing of the Fleet, Robin's Seafood, St. Bernard

"The pallium is to yoke us, to bring us together with Peter and his shepherding of the church."

- Archbishop Checchio

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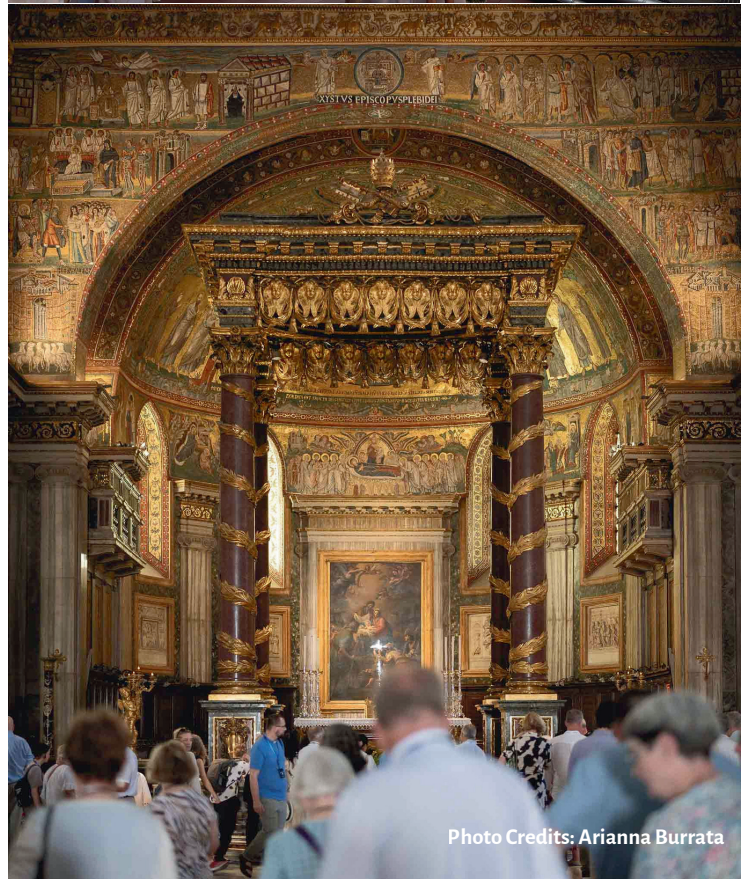


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Postcards from Rome: *Following the Pallium Pilgrims in Rome from June 26 - July 1*



June 26, 2026 Basilica of St. Mary Major

On the first official day of the Pallium Pilgrimage, the pilgrims gathered at the Basilica of St. Mary Major. There, Archbishop Checchio celebrated Mass and the pilgrims were treated to a guided tour of the basilica.

Photo Credits: Arianna Burrata



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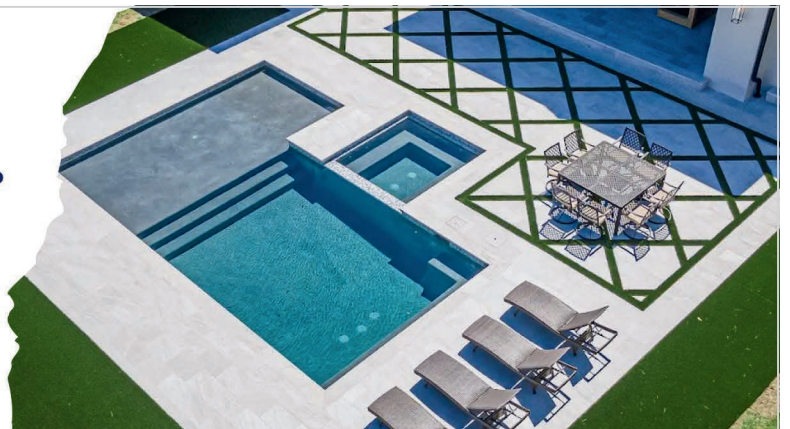
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June 27, 2026 Castel Gondolfo

On the second day, the pilgrims traveled 15 miles south of Rome to Castel Gondolfo to tour the gardens and celebrate Mass. They were treated to behind the scenes stories from the vacations of late popes and enjoyed the beauty of God's creation.



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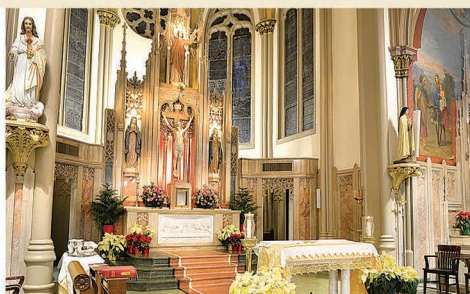
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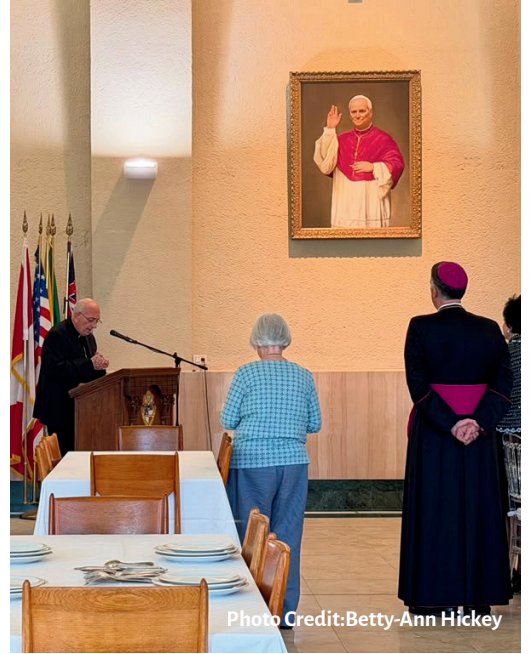


Photo Credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

June 28, 2026

Pontifical North American College

After spending the morning touring Ancient Rome, the pilgrims gathered for Mass and a reception at the Pontifical North American College where Archbishop Checchio had spent nearly a decade as rector before being appointed Bishop of Metuchen in 2016.



Photo Credit: CNS/Lola Gomez



Photo Credit: CNS/Lola Gomez

June 29, 2026

The Pallium Mass

The featured event of the pilgrimage, the Pallium Mass, brought the pilgrims inside St. Peter's Basilica as Archbishop Checchio received the pallium from Pope Leo on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.



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June 30, 2026
Basilica of San Clemente and St. John Lateran

On the next day, the pilgrims toured the Basilica of San Clemente and excavations below it in the morning and then gathered for Mass at St. John Lateran in the evening followed by an art history presentation.

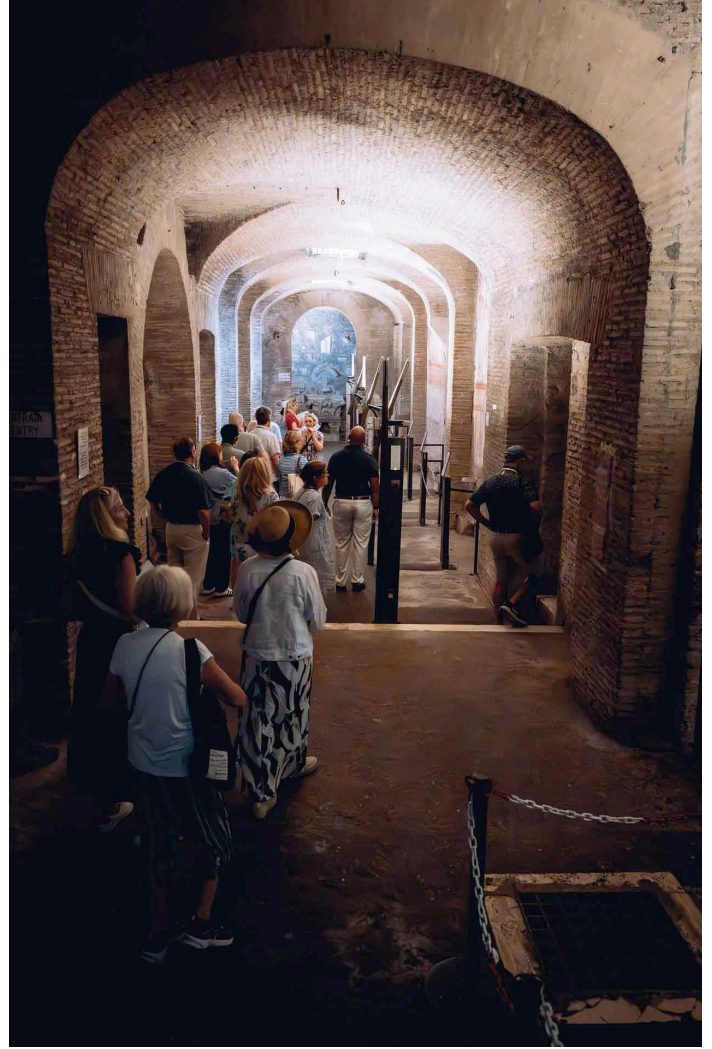


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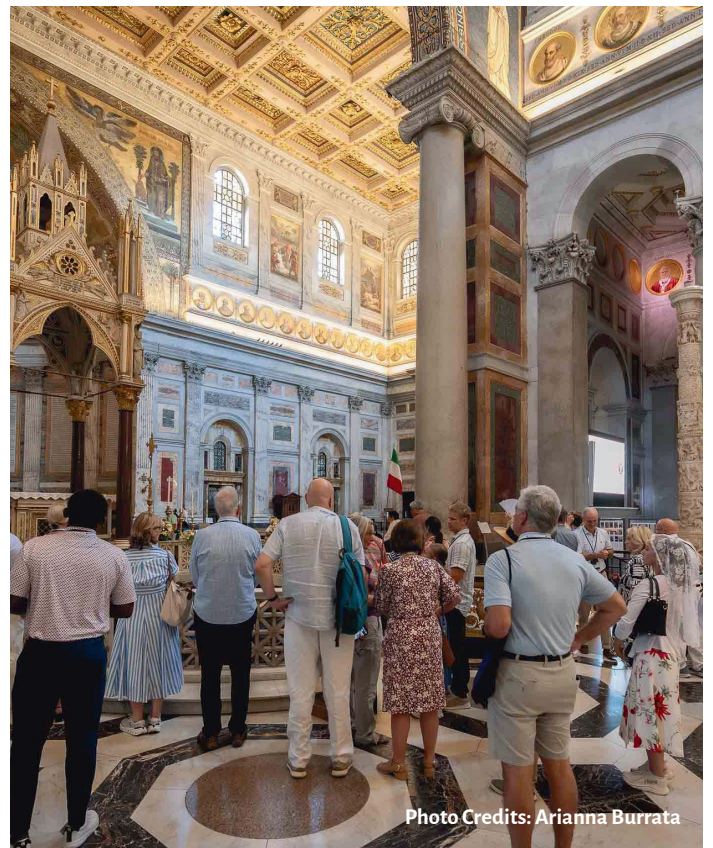
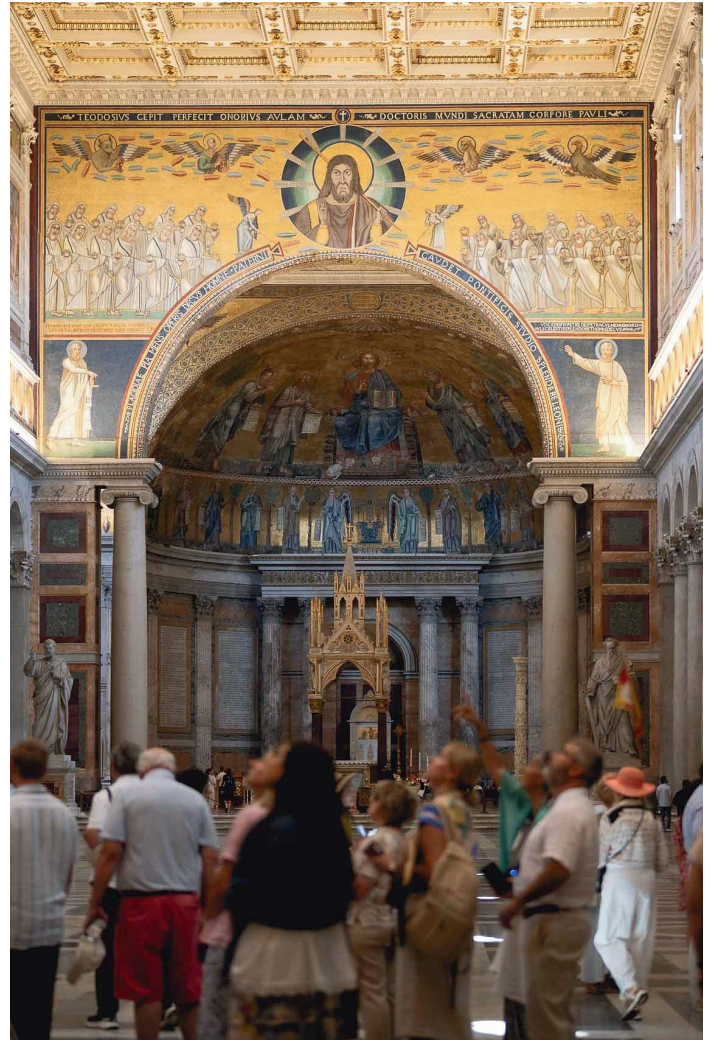
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July 1, 2026 St. Paul's Outside the Walls and the Vatican Museums Tour

On the final day of the pilgrimage, the group celebrated Mass at St. Paul's Outside the Walls and were privileged to tour the Vatican museums. In a message to the people of New Orleans from St. Paul's, Archbishop Checchio thanked everyone for their prayers and encouraged the local Church to continue to be fruitful and faithful.

Photo Credits: Arianna Burrata

Prayer for Vocations for the Homebound

Loving Father, I thank You for Your eternal love for me. I thank You for the gifts of Your sacraments — the Eucharist which feeds me, Penance and Reconciliation which renews me, and the Anointing of the Sick which strengthens me and gives me courage. Thank You for our Church and her priests who bring me Your grace.

I ask You for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. I ask You too, if someone from my own family is called to serve You in this way, that they will hear and generously respond to the call. Let families, especially parents, throughout our Archdiocese support them in responding to your call.

Lord Jesus, I unite my illnesses and sufferings to Your suffering and death for this intention. I offer all to You for my salvation, the salvation of my loved ones and the salvation of souls in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

AMEN

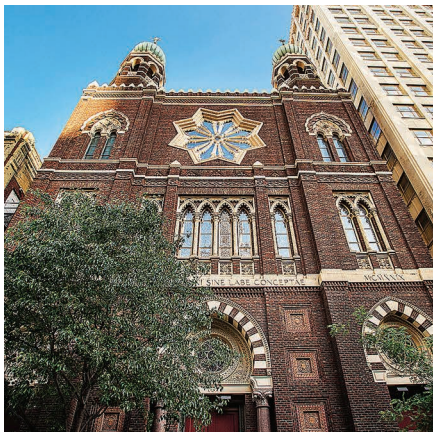
Oración por las vocaciones de las personas confinadas en casa

Padre amoroso, te doy gracias por tu amor eterno por mí. Te doy gracias por los dones de tus sacramentos: la Eucaristía que me alimenta, la Penitencia y la Reconciliación que me renuevan, y la Unción de los Enfermos que me fortalece y me da valor. Gracias por nuestra Iglesia y sus sacerdotes, que me traen tu gracia.

Te pido que aumenten las vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida consagrada en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva Orleans. Te pido también que, si alguien de mi propia familia está llamado a servirte de esta manera, escuche la llamada y responda generosamente. Que las familias, especialmente los padres, en toda nuestra Arquidiócesis los apoyen para responder a tu llamada.

Señor Jesús, uno mis enfermedades y sufrimientos a tu sufrimiento y muerte por esta intención. Te lo ofrezco todo por mi salvación, la salvación de mis seres queridos y la salvación de las almas en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva Orleans.

AMÉN



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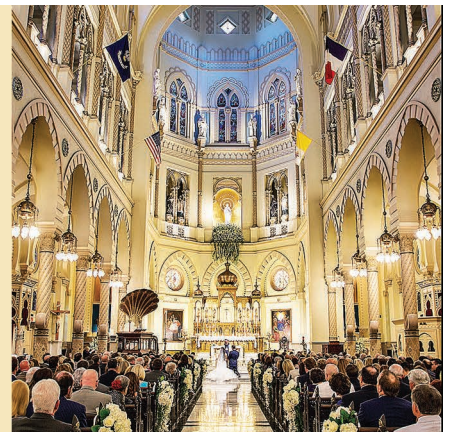
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Living the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Guide to Prayer

Scripture Passages for Prayer

First Month

1. Trust in God: Psalm 63:1-4
2. Do Not Be Afraid: Isaiah 43:1-4
3. Take Up Your Cross: Luke 9:23-27
4. Do Not Be Anxious: Matthew 6:25-34
5. Life Abundantly: John 10:7-15
6. Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13
7. The Roaring Lion: 1 Peter 5:5-11
8. Falling Into the Same Sin: 2 Corinthians 12:5-10
9. Jesus Prays: Mark 1:35-39
10. Mary and Martha: Luke 10:38-42
11. God Knows Our Hearts: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-15
12. Read again one of your favorite passages above
13. Annunciation: Luke 1:26-38
14. The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-20
15. The Greatness and Goodness of God: Psalm 33:13-22
16. Creation of Man and Woman: Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25
17. Crossing of the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10-14
18. David and Goliath: 1 Samuel 17:34-47
19. The Inscrutable Ways of God: Romans 11:33-36
20. Temptation of Jesus: Luke 4:1-13
21. Trials and Difficulties: James 1:2-4
22. Jesus Restores the Little Girl: Mark 5:35-42
23. Healing the Blind: Mark 8:22-26
24. The Healing of the Paralytic: Luke 5:17-26
25. A Sinful Woman Forgiven: Luke 7:36-50
26. The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32
27. Woman Caught in Adultery: John 7:45-8:11
28. Jesus Walks on the Sea: Matthew 14:22-33
29. Peter's Declaration: Mark 8:27-38
30. Read again one of your favorite passages above

How to Hear God's Voice

Preparation

- Dedicate a specific time when you will visit the adoration chapel or pray in a quiet place at home.
- Leave your phone in the car or another room before beginning prayer.
- Find the scripture passage for the day in your bible.

Praying with Sacred Scripture

Relax: Take a minute or two to take deep breaths and place yourself in the presence of God. Imagine being with Jesus. As different thoughts come up in your mind, gently and slowly give them to Jesus and ask Him to hold them for this time. Pray this prayer: "Jesus, I give you this time. Do with me whatever you desire."

Read: Read the scripture passage the first time to understand the general sense of the story. Then take a deep breath. **Reflect on:** *What is actually happening in the passage?*

Read Again: Read the passage again slowly paying attention to what peaks your interest, what moves your heart, or what you find curious. Notice the thoughts, desires, feelings, or questions that come to mind as you read it a second time.

Reflect on: *What is sticking out to me?*

Meditate: Take whatever stood out to you in the passage and think about how this relates to your life currently. Talk to Jesus about what it could possibly be. Reflect on: Why is this sticking out to me? How do I think it relates to my life?

Listen: Take a couple minutes at the end of your prayer to allow God to speak to you. This may be difficult at the beginning, but trust that you will learn His voice and be able to hear Him if you stay consistent in prayer. Reflect on: Jesus, what are you saying to me?

Resolve: If the Lord reveals something, ask the Lord for the grace to do what he is asking of you and to remember what he has spoken. Then pray this prayer: "Jesus, thank you for this time with you. I promise to trust you in your will and to love you more today."

Find these prayer resources online in Spanish and Vietnamese at <https://nolacatholic.org/sacredheartdownloads>



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St. Louis Cathedral

St. Mary's Church



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*Please note that due to interior renovations the Cathedral will be closed for weddings from July 1, 2027-January 1, 2029

Forgiveness is God's Ultimate Supernatural Love



Lisa
JANUSA

NOLACatholic Parenting

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

These well-known words were spoken by Jesus to his disciples in response to their question "Lord teach us to pray?" It became the prayer we call Our Father's Prayer or The Lord's Prayer.

This might be the first prayer you learned as a child or taught to your own child with the idea in mind that this beautiful prayer is the basis of all the things you need to know and practice in your faith journey.

This prayer is packed with so much meaning that St. Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun and Doctor of the Church, wrote her commentary on the Lord's Prayer in her book called "The Way of Perfection."

Some excerpts are regarding forgiveness, "This sisters, is something we should consider carefully; it is a serious and important matter that God should pardon us our sins, which we have merited eternal fire, that we must pardon all trifling things which have been done to us and which are not wrongs at all, or

anything else. For how is it possible either in word or in deed to wrong one who, like myself, has deserved to be plagued by devils forever? Is it not only right that I should be plagued in this world too? As I have so few, Lord, even of these trifling things to offer Thee, thy pardoning of me must be a free gift."

Forgiveness is God's ultimate supernatural love. Only our God could suffer all his punishment for our sins while only thinking of the reward for his sacrifice being our salvation and ultimate reunion with Him in heaven for all eternity. He gave everything for us and his request to his father was "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."

Why is forgiveness so hard for us? When we have been injured in word or deed, we would rather attack the attacker or conceive of some revenge towards them. Jesus turns all this around by helping us see that these people make mistakes like we do and if we see them with God's eyes grace can enter in and bring healing to both.

Satan is a divider and a deceiver. He knows that we live by our passions and once we have been the object of someone's hate or just indifference we tend to respond with the same. Now we have two people who have this big barrier between them, and it is very hard to reverse the damage. We will say and do

things that make each of us madder while we fall right into the devil's trap.

Being a Christian is recognizing that God calls us to unity. The way to achieve this unity is to drop our pride and our own self will and choose God's will instead.

When we practice forgiveness, we disarm the devil and he has no power over us.

In our humility we can join our suffering to Jesus. Jesus will take our sacrifices and turn them into graces so that we can do the Father's will and spread the Kingdom of God.

It's hard to be an obedient servant and worker in God's army if all we care about is our own selfish wants and desires.

Let's get on the right team! Forgive, forget and move on. Walk with your sister and brother in unity and see what God can do!

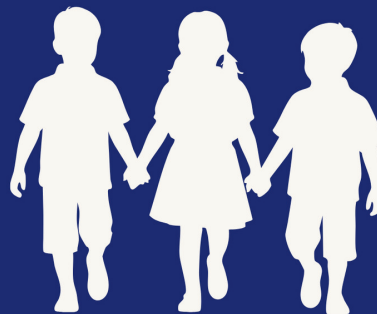
Lisa Janusa is a mother and grandmother in New Orleans and has been a St. Dominic parishioner with her husband for 50 years. A big part of her life has been spent serving God through various music ministries in St. Dominic Church and School. She is proud of her Catholic faith and is happy to share her knowledge and life experiences.



God Chose YOU to Protect His Children

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has zero tolerance for abuse. God has chosen you to protect His children. If you have cause to believe a minor has been abused, contact the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (1-855-452-5437) or local law enforcement.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

El Que Tenga Oídos, Que Oiga



Fr. Manuel
SOLARZANO, O.P.

16° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
Mateo 13: 24-43
Julio 19, 2026

Queridos hermanos: la Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos invita a contemplar el misterio de la paciencia de Dios. Un Dios que no actúa con prisas humanas, sino con misericordia, que sabe esperar y que respeta el tiempo del crecimiento del corazón humano.

En medio de un mundo que muchas veces exige resultados inmediatos, el Señor nos revela un estilo distinto: el de la paciencia que salva y la misericordia que transforma. En la primera lectura se nos recuerda que Dios es justo, pero también lleno de misericordia. Su poder no se manifiesta en la violencia, sino en la paciencia y en la clemencia.

El texto subraya algo muy importante: Dios corrige con dulzura y gobierna con respeto hacia la libertad humana. Él da tiempo al pecador para que se convierta, porque su deseo no es destruir, sino salvar.

El salmista proclama con confianza: "Tú, Señor, eres bueno y clemente." Es la oración del creyente que reconoce la bondad constante de Dios. No es un amor cambiante, sino firme y fiel.

Este salmo nos invita a confiar en la misericordia de Dios incluso cuando no entendemos todo lo que sucede en nuestra vida.

Por su parte, en el Evangelio Jesús nos presenta varias parábolas sobre el Reino de Dios, especialmente la del trigo y la cizaña. Un sembrador siembra buena semilla en su campo, pero durante la noche aparece la cizaña. Los trabajadores quieren arrancarla inmediatamente, pero el dueño del campo responde con una enseñanza sorprendente: "Déjenlos crecer juntos hasta la cosecha." Esta parábola nos revela el corazón de Dios: un Dios que sabe esperar, que no actúa con violencia inmediata, sino con paciencia y discernimiento. En nuestra vida, muchas veces quisiéramos eliminar de inmediato el mal, la injusticia o el pecado, tanto en el mundo como en nuestro propio corazón. Pero Dios nos enseña que el crecimiento espiritual es un proceso.

También nos advierte contra el juicio apresurado: no siempre somos capaces de distinguir claramente el trigo de la cizaña. Solo Dios conoce plenamente el corazón humano.

El Reino de Dios crece de manera silenciosa, incluso en medio de la mezcla del bien y del mal. Pero la certeza del Evangelio es que al final el bien triunfará.

Jesús nos invita a confiar en la paciencia de Dios y a vivir con esperanza activa: trabajar por el bien, sin desesperación, y sin juzgar precipitadamente a los demás.

Las lecturas de hoy nos muestran que Dios es paciente, misericordioso y lleno de bondad. Su Reino crece con el tiempo, y su amor acompaña cada proceso de conversión.

- Soy paciente conmigo mismo y con los demás en el camino de la fe?
- Confío en la misericordia de Dios incluso cuando veo el mal presente?
- Me dejo llevar por el juicio o por la compasión?
- Cómo puedo colaborar con el crecimiento del Reino de Dios en mi vida diaria?

Hermanos y hermanas, aprendamos del Señor a ser pacientes y misericordiosos. No nos desesperemos ante nuestras debilidades ni ante las de los demás.

Pidamos al Señor un corazón como el suyo: un corazón que sabe esperar, que sabe amar y que sabe confiar.

Y que podamos vivir cada día con la certeza de que Dios es bueno y clemente, lento a la ira y rico en misericordia. Amén.

Awed by the Mystery of God...We Rejoice!



Jubilee 2026

Read Jubilee profiles at
www.ssndcp.org/jubilee-26



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June Marie Tacheny
† Jane Thibault
Mary Bernard Unpingco
Kathryn Van Hulst
Mary Delbert Weisensel
Mary Jo Welter
Marilyn Wussler

60 years

Mary Kay Ash
Sandra Bay
Mary Susan Berg
Susan Biegert
Gail Buckman
Joan DiProspero
Irene Dohmen
Maria Elena Ferrer-López
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Mary Kay Schmitt
Judith Schroeder
Kathleen Storms
Virginia Irene Sturgeon
Mary Joanna Suh
Marie Rose Van Deurzen
Esther Wagner
Karen Walther
Cora Weismantel

50 years

Marygay Lawrence
Barbara Pfarr
Patricia Rass
Cheryl Marie Wagner

25 years

Ann Coleman
Kathleen Ravn
Bridget Waldorf



† Deceased in 2026



Photos courtesy of St. Francis Xavier Parish

After arriving home from Rome on July 4, Archbishop Checchio celebrated Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Metairie. It marked his first Mass wearing the pallium he had received earlier in the week on June 29. Following Mass, the parish hosted a special 4th of July Parish Dinner and Patriotic Concert featuring Sarah Jane McMahon along with their parish choir and musicians.



Photos courtesy of St. Anthony Parish

On July 5, Archbishop Checchio visited St. Anthony in Gretna for Mass followed by a reception.

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Rich in tradition with generations of families having benefited from its programming, Camp Abbey is sponsored by the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and brings together some of the best traditions of the former Benedictine/Knights of Columbus-sponsored summer camp with new enhancements made to the activities and Catholic spirituality of the program.

To attend camp, boys and girls must have completed 2nd through 8th grades in May prior to camp. Learn more at <https://campabbey.org/>.

Photos courtesy of Camp Abbey

LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY

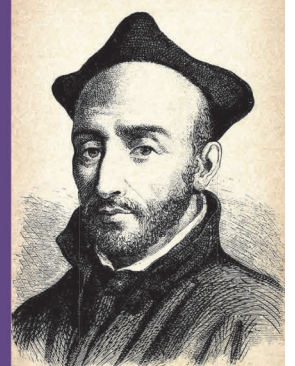
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