

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin's evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn't written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

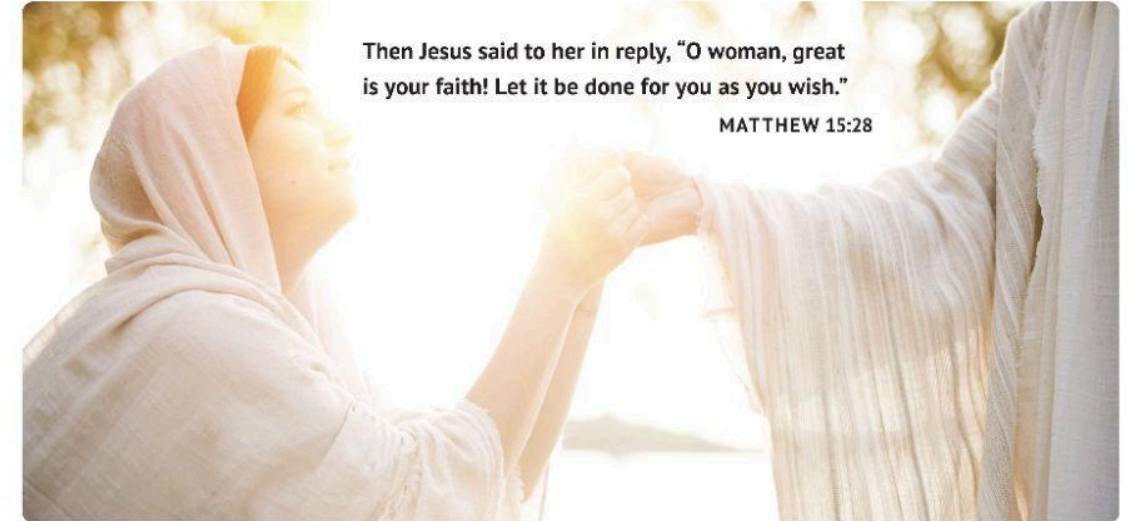
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28



Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today's gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for "the lost sheep" of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

"Faith in what?" one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?



St Rita 4 Cluster Parishes

August 15-16, 2026 — 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office

1109 Blackwell Rd Ranger TX 76470 — office@srcctx.org

254-647-3163 — stritacatholicranger.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

PARISH BOUNDARIES TOWN HALL - August 19th

Bishop Olson has scheduled a Town Hall meeting at Lexington Hall, 512 Grant Ave., in Strawn on Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m. for all four of our parishes. There is no need for alarm or concern. Together, we are simply following the requirements set forth in Canon Law and adding clarity where it is needed. For those who would like to review the proposed boundaries, participate in the consultative process, or ask questions, your presence is welcome at the meeting. For more details on parish boundaries, please refer to the North Texas Catholic Article "Mapping it out: the Diocese of Fort Worth updates parish boundaries". You can find a link to this article at stritacatholicranger.org.

NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH

Mary's life was an unwavering "Yes" to God's plan, and her assumption reminds us of our ultimate heavenly home. A faithful estate plan is a reflection of that same holy trust. Putting your earthly affairs in order provides peace of mind for your family & ensures your Catholic values are honored. You can use your estate plan to make a final, impactful gift for the benefit of your parish to ensure that either is supported forever. Tax-Smart Tip: Consider funding a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) through the Advancement Foundation or the benefit of your parish. This option allows you to make a legacy gift, receive an immediate tax deduction, & secure fixed, guaranteed lifetime payments for yourself or a loved one. Request our free Catholic Estate Planning kit: advancementfoundation.planmygift.org/

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick: Jane Dooly, Benjamin Flores & family, Jax Jordan, Larry Owings, Betty Wilson

MASS INTENTIONS

For the repose soul of **+Paulette Foster**, requested by Holy Rosary Altar Society, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cisco; **+David White**, requested by Karen Donoho, and **+Flora Rosales**, St. Rita, Ranger.

STRAWN - ST. JOHN

Saturday Vigil

3:30 PM: Rosary

4:00 PM: Mass

Wednesday

4:00 PM: Confession/Adoration

4:30 PM: Mass

2nd Thursday - Monthly

St Boniface, Dodson Prairie

4:00 PM: Confession/Adoration

4:30 PM: Mass

CISCO - OUR LADY OF THE

HOLY ROSARY

Sunday

7:30 AM: Rosary

8:00 AM: Mass

Wednesday

8:30 AM: Confession/Adoration

9:00 AM: Mass

RANGER - ST. RITA

Sunday

9:15 AM: Rosary

9:45 AM: Mass

Tuesday

5:30 PM: Confession/Adoration

6:00 PM: Mass

In case of pastoral emergency: 817-821-5821

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Pudota, SAC

Bookkeeper: Patsy Davis

Office Secretary: Danielle Harper

Safe Environment Coordinator: Katrina Briseno

Director of Religious Education: Devony Norris

OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation for Adults : Martha McCoy

Quinceañera Coordinator: Kayla Rubio

Sacramental Preparation: Call the office, 254-647-3163

STEWARDSHIP

August 8 & 9, 2026

St. John \$ 661

St. Rita \$ 1,691

St. Francis \$ 515

Holy Rosary \$ 1,122

CALENDAR PICTURES

Pictures are needed for our four parish calendar, please send any wonderful group pictures and celebrations you have to our church office email: office@arcctx.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS - August 18th

There is a Teachers meeting for Religious Education on **Tuesday, August 18th at 6 p.m. at the St. Teresa Calcutta house, the "yellow" house, in Eastland**. Anyone interested in helping is welcome including any students who have received confirmation and want to help. For more information call **DRE Devony Norris at 254-631-8079**.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT - August 26th

The next Safe Environment Renewal class is **Wednesday, August 26, 2026 and 6:00 PM in Cisco** at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary parish hall. Please sign up at virtusonline.org. If you have questions call **Katrina Briseno at 325-864-3892**. Note this is a RENEWAL class; not a first time class.

OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults - September 15th

Adults interested in Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, or full communion with the Catholic Church are invited to participate in OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). Contact the **Parish Office 254-647-3163 or Martha McCoy 469-964-1559** for information. Classes begin Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 6:00pm at St. Rita's Hall.

RED MASS - September 23rd

All attorneys, judges, law students, public officials, and their families and staff are cordially invited to attend the Red Mass with the Most Reverend Michael F. Olson. The Mass will be celebrated at **St. Patrick Cathedral Fort Worth on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** All members of the legal profession are welcome at the Red Mass, regardless of religious affiliation. A reception and dinner follow at the Fort Worth Club. **Registration deadline is Saturday, September 19.** To **RSVP** & more info visit: stmsfw.org/red-mass.

EASTLAND - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday (Spanish)

10:30 AM: Rosary

11:15 AM: Mass

Thursday (Spanish)

6:30 PM: Confession/Adoration

7:00 PM: Mass

1st Friday - Monthly (Spanish)

7:00-8:00 PM: Adoration

3rd Saturday - Monthly (Spanish)

9:00 AM: Mass

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION

August 2026

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.