

Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World



War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.

ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 2026

The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione-Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

August 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1-5

Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

September 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b-16

Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1-9

Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

September 3

St. Gregory the Great,

Pope and Doctor of

the Church

1 Cor 3:18-23

Lk 5:1-11

Friday

September 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1-5

Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

September 5

Weekday

1 Cor 4:6b-15

Lk 6:1-5

Sunday

September 6

Twenty-third Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7-9 / Romans 12:1-2 / Matthew 16:21-27



I Just Told You!

MIGUEL DULICK

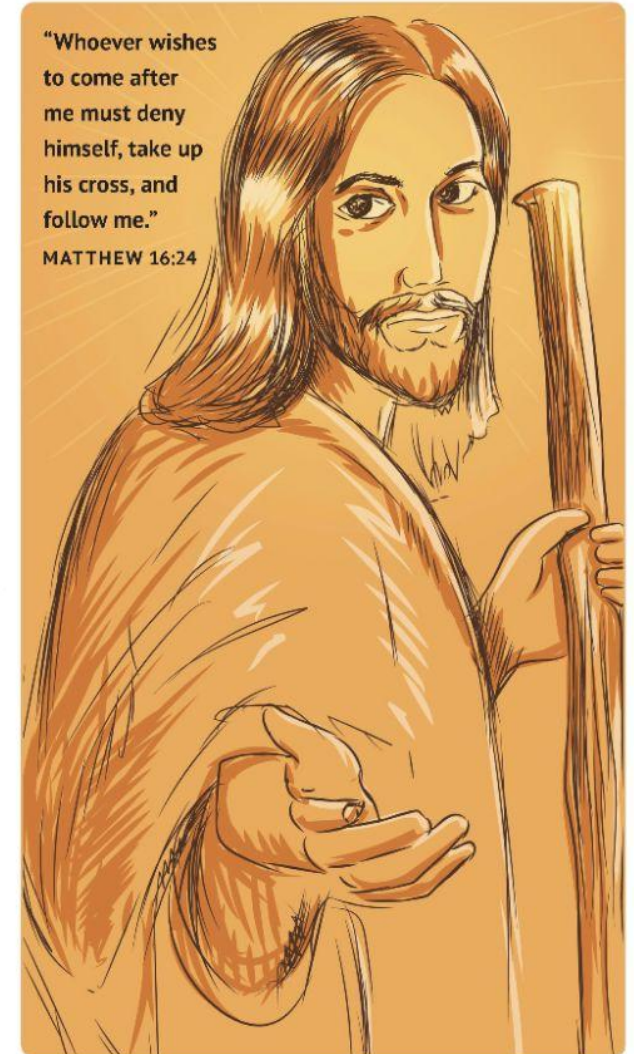
Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—"Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—"Come after me" (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same "trigger" word: "Whoever wishes to *come after me* must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cross! That's how the controversy started, when Peter "took Jesus aside" (literally, "collared" him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don't even want to admit I'm a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Everything for Jesus. ●

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

MATTHEW 16:24



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

What cross are you carrying? Can you unite it with Jesus' cross and offer it as prayer?



St Rita 4 Cluster Parishes

August 29-30, 2026 — 22nd 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.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA COLLECTION - Sep. 5th & 6th

Next weekend, the diocese will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs in the heart of Washington, D.C. By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education and the University's various research and training initiatives that support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. The Catholic Project - an initiative that aims to heal the breach of trust many have experienced as a result of the crisis in the Church, a master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management, and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers are a few examples how the University is serving the Church and nation. Please give generously to the The Catholic University of America on September 5 and 6 at Mass, through our parish online giving, or at <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections> (case sensitive).

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.

HELP WANTED

We need a few more volunteers to be teacher's helpers. If interested, get your safe environment and contact our **DRE Devony Norris at 254-631-8079**.

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 **+Elodia Flores**, requested by Holy Rosary Altar Society, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cisco.

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, 325-864-3892

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 22 & 23, 2026

St. John \$ 978

St. Rita \$ 1,193

St. Francis \$ 556

Holy Rosary \$ 1,573

EASTLAND FRIENDSHIP MEAL - September 1st

The Eastland Friendship Meal is this Tuesday, September 1st, from 6 to 7 pm at the First Baptist church in Eastland; 405 S. Seaman, Eastland. All are welcome.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION - September 4th

First Friday Adoration at St. Francis Xavier is September 4, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. All prayers are in Spanish. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS CLASSES - September 9th

Children's Religious Education classes will start on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the St. Teresa of Calcutta Yellow House in Eastland.** *Classes will also start this night at Lexington Hall in Strawn; time to be announced.* Forms are available at each parish and will be available the day of classes. Please bring your forms on the first class day, and we will help make sure everything is complete. **Classes are for ages Kindergarten through Confirmation.** Students who have received confirmation, and would like to join or help with classes please join us! **Any questions contact DRE Devony Norris at 254-631-8079.**

ST RITA RUMMAGE SALE - September 12th

St. Rita's Rosary Ministry will host a Rummage Sale on **September 12, 2026**, in their Parish Hall. The sale will run from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, with food and drinks available for lunch. If you would like to donate glassware, kitchenware, antiques, knickknacks, books, small furniture, or other treasures you no longer have room for or would like to rehome, please contact **Diane at 214-215-9059, Susie at 254-629-0444, or the Church Office at 254-647-3163.** Proceeds are for St. Rita's Church.

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

The Church grows through invitation. If you know someone interested in learning about Catholicism, encourage them to contact the Parish Office about 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.

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.