

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

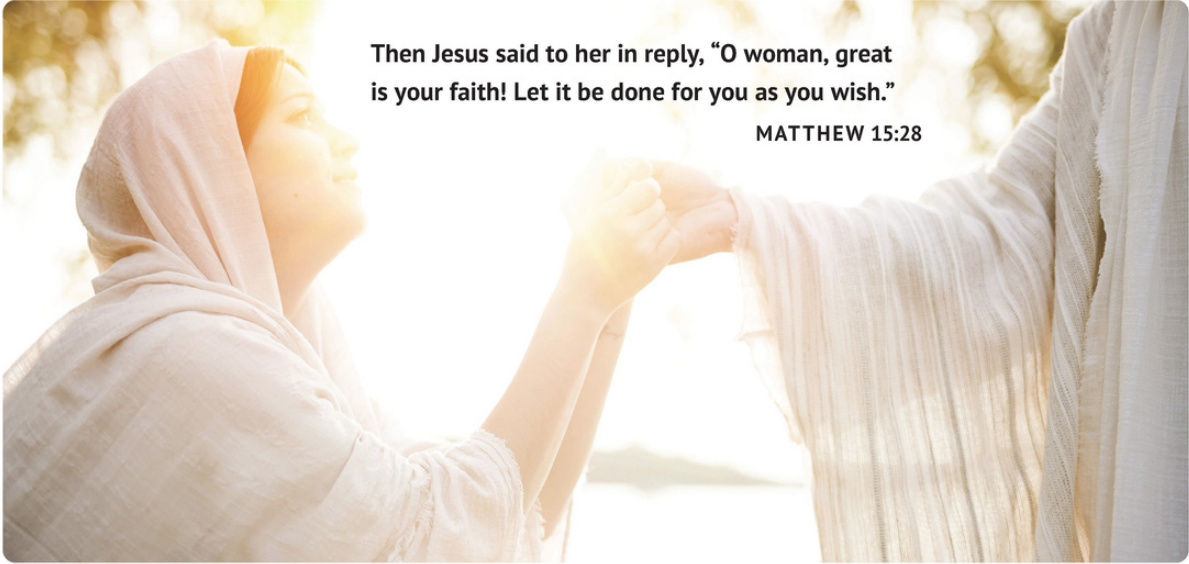
MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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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?



Online Giving is here. Scan the QR Code in this bulletin or visit www.stpetercarthage.com to access the Online Giving tab. Questions can be directed to Ann Catalano 615-683-9587

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

208 Upper Ferry Rd. Carthage, TN

www.stpetercarthage.com

Instagram: @stpetercarthage

Facebook: St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

Mass Schedule:

Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Monday, August 17th at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19th at 8 a.m.

Friday, August 21st at 8 a.m.

Confessions: Please know that confessions are available anytime by appointment and Saturdays prior to Mass.

Scripture Study: Wednesdays at 6 p.m. – Study the scripture for the upcoming weekend and enhance your experience of Mass.

Rosary Leader Sign ups: We would love to have a rotation of parishioners lead the Rosary before our weekend Masses. If you're willing to help lead us in prayer, please sign up on the sheets at the entrance of the church. Thank you for helping our parish begin each Mass in prayer!

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary (KCLA) is hosting a social for all women of our parish on Monday, August 24th at 6 p.m. All ladies are invited to join us for snacks, drinks, and fellowship. Bunko will also be played; it is a simple game that can be learned in just a few minutes. For more information, call Olga at 615-418-6607. Come join the fun!

Thank You: Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for providing a wonderful breakfast last weekend.

Knights of Columbus meeting today (Sunday, August 16th) after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Children's Liturgy Volunteers Needed! We hope to offer a Children's Liturgy during Mass this fall and we need volunteers to help make it possible! If you're willing to help lead our children in hearing and understanding the Sunday readings, please let us know. We'd love to build a rotation of volunteers so that no one person has to serve every week. Contact Ben if interested 615-294-6122

Riddley's Helping Hand - August Roundup: We are collecting pajamas of all sizes and new small toiletry bags to add all the basic essentials like toothbrush/toothpaste, lotion, deodorant, feminine products, etc. A donation box will be in the entrance of the church for your convenience.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process in which adults wanting to learn more about our faith and potentially joining our church in the spring meet for classes. The first class will be September 14th

Last Week Collections: \$2,358.64 - Building - \$50 - Bless you for caring and sharing in the fruit of your labors. We pledge to be the best of stewards with the fruit of your generosity.

Pastor's Desk: Thanks to all the folks who volunteer their labors of love by cleaning our church, mowing our huge lawn and volunteering labors. Fr. Don will be flying "home" on August 31st – This is my first homestay since I had my siblings funerals. A visiting priest will be here for Masses