

Dear Padre,

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See *Code of Canon Law*, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 23, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20



Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do you say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter’s assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

MATTHEW 16:16

Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, “Samaritan” spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.

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

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Do you have a question for the Padre?		
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about <i>Dear Padre</i> .		
Monday August 24 <i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> Rv 21:9b–14 Jn 1:45–51	Thursday August 27 <i>St. Monica</i> 1 Cor 1:1–9 Mt 24:42–51	Saturday August 29 <i>The Passion of St. John the Baptist</i> 1 Cor 1:26–31 Mk 6:17–29
Tuesday August 25 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17 Mt 23:23–26	Friday August 28 <i>St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> 1 Cor 1:17–25 Mt 25:1–13	Sunday August 30 <i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Jer 20:7–9 Rom 12:1–2 Mt 16:21–27
Wednesday August 26 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18 Mt 23:27–32		



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!

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

Pastoral Council Meeting: Saturday, August 29th at 8 a.m.

Last Week Collections: \$1,987.64 - Building - \$170 - 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 (Fr. Dexter Brewer) will be here for Masses on this weekend.