

# Dear Padre,

I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of "pray, pay, and obey" were over.

The Code of Canon Law identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that the pastor will engage in pastoral care "with the assistance of lay members of Christ's faithful" (CCL 519).

The intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the "knowledge, prudence, and integrity" of every member (CCL 228, §2). Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of goodwill. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone take a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, "Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?" If honest and prayerful reflection reveals less-than-good intentions, now is the time for an attitude change and to acknowledge that a new start is needed. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Presentation of the Lord ~ February 2



**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-32**  
When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary & Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*The desire to work together for a common purpose reflects an essential reality: no one is Christian alone! We are part of a people, a body established by the Lord.... The Christian life is not lived in isolation.... It is lived with others, in a group and in community, because the risen Christ is present wherever disciples gather in his name.*

ADDRESS, ROME, JUNE 6, 2025

RICARDO DE LUCA / UPDATES / SHUTTERSTOCK

May God bless our Pope Bishops Priests Deacons and All Religious peoples!

## Welcome to Our Parish Community

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 1, 2026



St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Hot Springs, SD

### Weekend Mass Schedules:

Saturday ~	5:30pm	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~	8:00am	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~	10:30am	St Anthony of Padua Church ~ Hot Springs, SD
Sunday ~	2:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

## The New Evangelization

MIGUEL DULICK

This season of the Church we call "Ordinary Time" is full of Jesus' teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today's readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of "Thou shalt not," they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The "poor in spirit" get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

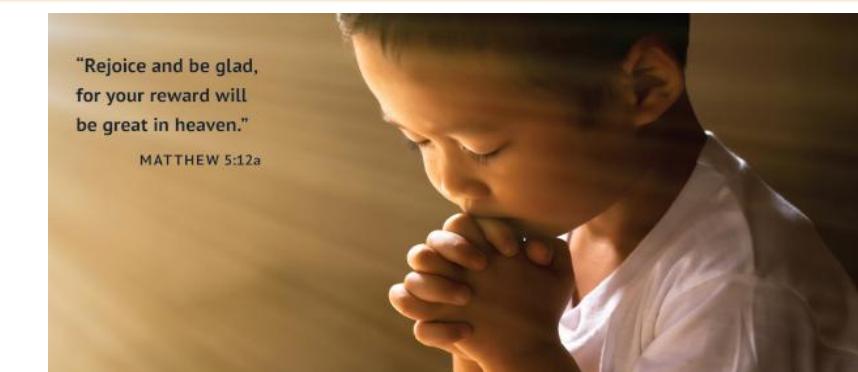
Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? We are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses:

the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today's first reading, saw the shift coming, from "don'ts" to "dos," from bossy to beatitude: "Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land"

(Zephaniah 2:3). You will be "a people humble and lowly" who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with "none to disturb" you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that! ●

### Reflect

How do Jesus' teachings work in the "real world"?



"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."  
MATTHEW 5:12a



Welcome to our Catholic faith community. If you are a new parishioner interested in becoming part of our parish community, please stop by the Parish Office and register or call for more information.