



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 31, 2025

I'm Nobody! Who Are You?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is the title of one of Emily Dickinson's most beloved poems. Did she really think she was nobody? Probably not. But neither was she eager to get bogged down by the approval of others. She seems to have been satisfied with who she was and how she lived her life.

Unlike Dickinson, many of us live for the approval of others. In fact, we almost glorify celebrities—and not simply for their accomplishments. Their taste becomes our choice in buying clothes; their opinions shape our thinking; their social lives become our entertainment.

This is a strange turnaround, for the only reason they are famous is that we have given them our approval. We made them celebrities.

We all know people who, in the eyes of the broader society, might be considered “nobodies” but who really are the “somebodies.” They are like Dickinson. They know who they are and do not pretend to be someone or something else. They do not put on airs; they do not expect to be treated better than others. They simply are who they are. These are the people described in today's readings. They have lived as Sirach counsels: “Humble yourself” (Sirach 3:18). This does not mean humiliate yourself or put yourself down. It means be who you are: the you that God made. Don't try to be someone else. The gospel story shows what might happen if you think you are more than you really are. The proud man was literally put in his place.

So, who are you? †



**Be who you are:
the you that God made.
Don't try to be
someone else.**

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

My own story is that of a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate. All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.

ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF
THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
ROME, MAY 16, 2025



Sunday Readings

Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a

[Y]ou have approached...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.

Luke 14:1, 7–14

[Jesus said,] “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS
REFLECTION

- What do I do to gain others' admiration?
- Am I living an honest life, true to who God made me?



Why They Migrate: Violence

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez

What are parents to do when they live in a community stricken by instability, violence, and crime? For years, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have had the unfortunate distinction of experiencing some of the highest homicide rates of any countries in the world. Impunity for criminal behavior is common. Crimes against women are a particularly acute problem in these countries, as is widespread violence perpetrated by international criminal syndicates and local gangs.

Gangs often turn to extortion and other forms of criminal behavior to fund their illegal enterprises. Some forcibly recruit women and children into sexual slavery. Others force teenage boys to join gangs and engage in illicit behavior. If the boys fail to comply, more harassment, persecution, and violence often ensue. Government agencies responsible for protecting citizens against these violent perpetrators are often corrupt, inept, or otherwise unwilling or unable to do so.

Families must often fend for themselves and thus are left with the difficult choice to either stay in an unsafe and unstable community or try to escape to a place where they are often unwelcomed, rejected, and marginalized. Given the existential dangers at home, is it surprising that many mothers, fathers, and children decide to flee in search of safety in another land? Given similar circumstances, what would you do?

Our Lady, protectress of immigrants and refugees.... As you and your family fled from Herod in the face of threats of violence and persecution and became refugees in a foreign land, you know the fear of mothers and fathers who flee with their own children in search of a place of safety. For all those who are afflicted by violence in their homes or in their neighborhoods, please intercede on their behalf and lead them to a safe haven. Grant us the wisdom to respond effectively to the sufferings of those who flee violence. May we work to build a world of peace that shuns violence. Amen. †

From *Novena for Migrants to Our Lady of Guadalupe* by Bishop Joe S. Vásquez with Todd Scribner, PhD, Liguori Publications (828324).
To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

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Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Devotion to the Sacred Heart: Rekindling Hope in a Troubled World"

In *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), Pope Francis' encyclical, we find the integration of modern issues with the traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart, presenting Christ's heart as a central unifying force in today's fragmented world, a world Francis describes as having lost heart. He encourages us to ask ourselves important questions: "Who am I, really?... [For] what purpose am I in this world?" (DN 8).

Loving Jesus, as your heart speaks to mine, may it speak to the world the message that everyone is loved, everyone is valued, everyone is embraced in the arms of God the Creator. Jesus, receive my heart today. Soften it where it is hard, open it to whom it is closed, and so that I may be kind, loving, faithful, and strong, please make my heart like yours. Amen.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Holy and compassionate God, teach us the freedom of humility, the gratification of surrender, the true joy of compassion for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 1–6

Monday, Weekday:

1 Thes 4:13–18 / Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 / Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday, St. Gregory the Great:

Col 1:1–8 / Lk 4:38–44

Thursday, Weekday:

Col 1:9–14 / Lk 5:1–11

Friday, Weekday:

Col 1:15–20 / Lk 5:33–39

Saturday, Weekday:

Col 1:21–23 / Lk 6:1–5

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