

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

With the Lord there is mercy!



Masses For The Week

Sun 16 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

09:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)

+Paul Arizola (Linda Lou Ramirez)

+Benito Narvaiz, Jr. (Linda Lou Ramirez)

+Genaro Zambrano (Linda Lou Ramirez)

+Abran Aldaco (Linda Lou Ramirez)

Thr 20 St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

12:05 pm +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pope Francis wrote that “in the hour of trial faith brings light.” The terrible trial of a demonically tormented child could have wrecked the Canaanite woman’s spirit, weighing her down with despondency and defeat. But faith lifts her from hopelessness and carries her to the “holy mountain” that is Christ. The promise proclaimed by Saint Paul—that God desires to have mercy on all—moves the woman beyond fatalism and doubt. Even Christ’s silence does not dissuade her. Instead it serves to steel her belief and renew her efforts to beg for what God is eager to give her.

The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning for

+All Souls in Purgatory (Sandra Leyendecker)

Good News!

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32

/ Matthew 15:21–28

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? ●

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LOVE

is the command of the Lord

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LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, Rodrigo Medina, Armando Colchado, Elida Aldaco, Michelle Angela Nelson and Renee Chapa.

CCD REGISTRATION SET TO BEGIN

Registration will take place on August 23 and 30 after the 9 a.m. Mass. **EVERYONE MUST REGISTER DURING THESE DAYS. NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

To Register Your Child(ren) in our Parish’s CCD Program (First Communion & Confirmation):

1. Parents must be active [already have been coming to Mass with child(ren)] and registered members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. If not registered, parents must register at Parish Office in person. Then the family must remain active for one year to qualify to register for the following year in our CCD Program.

2. Parents must bring a copy of the child’s **Baptismal Certificate** and **First Communion Certificate** to Registration.

NO CERTIFICATES.

NO REGISTRATION!

NO EXCEPTIONS!

All CCD Classes will be held on Sundays

From 10:15 am to 12:00 pm

beginning on September 6

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Any adolescent [(already have been coming to Mass with parent(s))] who has reached the age of 14 by September 1 of this year and has not been confirmed is encouraged to register.



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Last Sunday’s Collection

Envelopes: \$ 1,051.00

Loose: \$ 21.00

Children’s Envelopes: \$ 00.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,072.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 692.96

Dear Padre

August 16, 2026

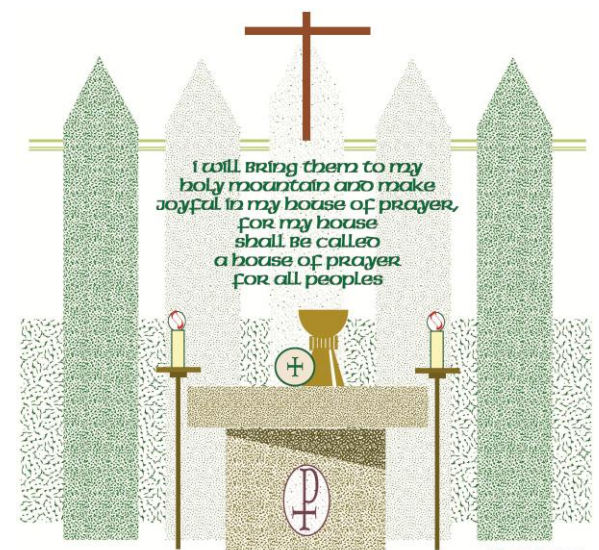
What does the Church teach about evolution?

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

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