

August 3, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23 | Col 3:1-5, 9-11 | Lk 12:13-21

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

A few years ago, I heard this witty but thought-provoking phrase: "You never see a U-Haul attached to a hearse" - a reminder that we don't get to take our physical belongings with us when we die. This phrase came to mind as I read today's Gospel. Jesus offers us a parable about the perils of placing our ultimate hope in amassing possessions. In our own lives, we might be challenged or inspired by the quiet example of people around us who demonstrate that material things aren't what matter most. From individuals who lose their possessions but express gratitude for their physical safety to the child who hears about others in need and gathers up items from their own room to share, we glean gentle reminders that in the end, stuff is just stuff. Pondering this, what we're left with is an invitation from Jesus to look inward: Where are our hearts in relation to our material possessions? Do we cling to them tightly, or do we hold them lightly? What does it mean to be "rich in what matters to God"?

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The antidote to our disordered attachment to material things is to cultivate Gospel simplicity. In sending his disciples out to spread the Gospel, Jesus often instructed them to "pack light": "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money ..." Jesus told his disciples (Lk 9:3). Instead, they were to go into the surrounding villages and rely on the hospitality of those they encountered to provide for all their needs. By carrying nothing with them, they learned to rely on God's providence and to intentionally reach out to others from a place of vulnerability and humility, both necessary in sharing the Gospel. While we aren't necessarily called to be itinerant preachers as the disciples were, we can take up Jesus' call to "pack light" as we strive to share the Gospel with others in our daily lives.

REFLECT

What can we learn from the disciples about overcoming the temptation to think that we are self-sufficient, as if sharing the Gospel depends entirely on us, rather than his grace? How might we adopt a simpler lifestyle, so that others see in us a living witness to the fact that our hope is not here in this world, but in the life to come? Reflect about how to live Gospel simplicity more intentionally in your life this week, and what that might offer for your efforts to share the Gospel with others.



Bringing Home the Word +

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
August 3, 2025

Was It Worth It?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

e hear many stories about women and men who value things or status over the people in their lives or over genuine fulfillment. Then, something happens that throws them back on their heels, and they are forced to face the question: Was it worth it? No, say the writers of today's readings. It is not worth losing yourself or the people you love. In fact, it is not worth risking your own integrity.

The Hebrew word for vanity can be translated as "worthless" or "foolish." The characters in the first reading and the gospel passage were considered

Sunday Readings

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

For what profit comes to mortals from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which they toil under the sun?

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Luke 12:13-21

[Jesus said,] "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." foolish because the labors and possessions that wore them down were ultimately worthless.

This idea of vanity or foolishness is a prominent theme in the Wisdom tradition. We all know that actions have consequences. It's these consequences that reveal what is good for us and what is not, what is worth pursuing and what we should avoid. Those who learn from life experiences in this way are considered wise; those who don't are deemed foolish. We all know this, as we have learned the truth of it from our own experiences.

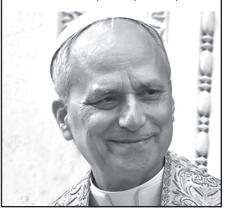
There is one more aspect that must be considered in making wise decisions. Which consequences are worth the effort we put into achieving them? Are we looking for short-term enjoyment, or do we seek long-term satisfaction? The profit attained by the people in these readings did not last. They couldn't take it with them, so one might ask: Was it worth it? †

The consequences
of our actions reveal
what is good for us
and what is not,
what is worth pursuing
and what we should avoid.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In our day, there is a widespread thirst for justice, a desire for authentic fatherhood and motherhood, a profound longing for spirituality, especially among young people and the marginalized, who do not always find effective means of making their needs known. There is a growing demand for the Church's social doctrine, to which we need to respond.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS GRESTIONS BEELFECTION

- How do I spend my time and energy?
- At the end of my life, will I say I spent my days well?



The Gift of Simplicity

Jesus taught by

word and deed

how to live the

lesson of simplicity.

Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette

f anyone in history ever typified and exemplified simplicity itself, that someone was Jesus. He invited his disciples and all of his followers to join in the example of his own life. Jesus taught by word

and deed how to live the lesson of gospel simplicity with perfect trust in God and in the joy that belongs to God's children. The more we discover Jesus as a person, the more clearly we perceive the call to embrace simplicity in all its aspects as a way of life. From the gospels, we get the straightforward understanding of how Jesus lived and breathed simplicity into

every moment of his life. During the silent moments of prayer and meditation on the gospel texts, the Holy Spirit shows us, with a clarity that only he can conjure, that Jesus our Master honored the Father in heaven and served the brethren on earth with a transparent simplicity of life. Jesus made his

earthly journey toward God, avoiding all worldly duplicity, traveling lightly, cultivating at all times that simplicity that unified his life and pointed all his earthly efforts to God alone. Ever since he left us that vivid example of simple living, it has become one of the signs by which we recognize a true follower of Christ.

From the Holy Spirit, we learn that we must become humble imitators of the Master. After all, Jesus clearly taught that the disciple is not greater than the Master. The best we can do to please him is to become more and more like him over time. The call to live out the gospel daily is a radical one, and it embraces the paradox of having to embrace true simplicity

while living in a very complex world. Thank God that the Holy Spirit helps untangle the complexities of our time and guides us in the ways of inward simplicity. #

Adapted from *The Gift of Simplicity: Heart, Mind, Body, Soul,* Liguori Publications (827464). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Dissent and Revelation: How the Holy Spirit Shapes Catholic Doctrine Through Controversy" by Fr. Matthew O'Toole

Serious and thoughtful theological dissent is far different than an expression of mere opinion at variance with a teaching of the Church. Sincere dissent may claim to expose an inconsistency of thought or a conclusion made without foundation in Scripture or sacred Tradition. The challenge for the dissident is to provide sound theological reasoning for his or her claims and carry with it a thread of inspiration from the Holy Spirit if it is to be respectfully considered by the Church. In the Church's history, dissidence has sometimes been of service to God's truth.

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



God of abundance, grant me the grace to be contented with "enough" and inspire me to be generous with all that is more than enough. In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 4-9

Monday, St. John Vianney: Nm 11:4b–15 / Mt 14:13–21

Tuesday, Weekday: Nm 12:1–13 / Mt 14:22–36 or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

Wednesday, Transfiguration of the Lord: Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 / 2 Pt 1:16–19 / Lk 9:28b–36 **Thursday,** Weekday: Nm 20:1–13 / Mt 16:13–23

Friday, St. Dominic: Dt 4:32–40 / Mt 16:24–28

Saturday, Weekday: Dt 6:4–13 / Mt 17:14–20



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Sunday, Aug 03, 2025

The freedom to be good

What does it mean to be free? For some it's a matter of not being trapped in oppressive circumstances, like an unsatisfying job, a difficult relationship, or an illness. For others it's the ability to find ways to live creatively within those situations. Some say freedom is about having choices. And there are those who think it's simply being able to do whatever they want. Christians believe Christ has freed them to discern what is truly important: to be generous rather than selfish; kind instead of cruel; truthful rather than deceptive. Use your freedom to choose the ways of Christ.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21 (114). "If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

Monday, Aug 04, 2025

Keep it on the down low

The Bible says Moses was the meekest man in the world. Today's saint, John Vianney, a.k.a. the Curé of Ars, was pretty lowly in his own right. It was said that he had a poor memory and no ability whatsoever to grasp abstract thought. In seminary he failed essential subjects like theology and Latin. But they ordained him anyway because his lowliness allowed God's love to shine through. Unlike others who let their ambitions get the best of them, Saint John Vianney stuck to his strengths. He cared for the people he was sent to serve. He advised other priests: "Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints—they are your public." Good advice for all of us to follow. MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407). "All ate and were satisfied."

Tuesday, Aug 05, 2025

God is waiting for you

You have to admire Moses. Two people close to him—Aaron and Miriam—had started asking why they couldn't be prophets, too. To settle the matter God called the three of them out for a talkingto: God trusted Moses, God said—end of argument. What's more, God punished Miriam with an instant case of leprosy. But Moses just as quickly asked the Lord to forgive Miriam. We see something similar when Jesus called Saint Peter to walk out on the water to him. Peter's initial faith sank pretty quickly, but Jesus caught him before he could go under. It's a virtue to keep faith—and to reach out a forgiving hand to others when they have not kept faith with you. God does it all the time. Remember the words of Saint Maria Goretti, the patron saint of forgiveness: "He loves, He hopes, He waits. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant."

Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). "He cried out, 'Lord, save me!"

Wednesday, Aug 06, 2025

Use your power for good

The two events we remember today offer a startling juxtaposition of images. First is the brilliant light radiating from Jesus as he is transformed on the mountaintop and the cloud from which is heard: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." Next to that is Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945: a blinding flash of light, a dense, dark, demonic mushroom cloud, and the greatest devastation humankind has ever seen. These images prompt us to consider the ways we use our knowledge and power, both individually and as a nation.

Does our "light," like Jesus', provide illumination, or cause blindness? To realize what we've done after the fact is too late. As Albert Einstein himself reportedly lamented about the atomic bomb, "If only I had known, I would have become a locksmith."

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD; HIROSHIMA MEMORIAL DAY

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28b-36 (614). "His clothing became dazzling white."

Thursday, Aug 07, 2025

Words to live by

Sixtus II became pope in 257 and was martyred almost a year later along with several deacons. Not only was he willing to die for Christ, it is inscribed on his tomb that he also offered himself first to the persecutors with the hope of saving his companions. Sixtus championed the belief that only one Baptism was necessary in life—it needn't be repeated, as some others claimed at the time. Once baptized in Christ, you always will be. That permanence makes extraordinary sacrifice possible. Indeed, through your Baptism, "you have become a new creation and clothed yourself in Christ," says the celebrant during the baptismal ritual, "See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." Those are the words Christians choose to live by.

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, MARTYR, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23 (410). "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."

Friday, Aug 08, 2025

Bother to love

The Jesuit theologian James Keenan once said that sin was simply not bothering to love. Note: Sin isn't the absence of love; love is already there. Rather it's the failure to choose to take advantage of opportunities to love. Saint Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers, and Dominican brothers and sisters ever since have sought to put knowledge and love together guided by their motto: "To praise, to bless, to preach." You can do the same. Review your day and see where you did not bother to love or, in Dominican terms, to offer praise, a blessing, or a good word. Then take the trouble to do it tomorrow.

MEMORIAL OF DOMINIC, PRIEST Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-28 (411). "Did a people ever hear the voice of God?"

Saturday, Aug 09, 2025

What would you risk?

Three Spanish saints—Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Ávila, and John of the Cross—wrote extensively on suffering and the role of the cross. Their writings helped draw Edith Stein (later Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta) into the life of the church. Even before the rise of Nazism, Teresa Benedicta, a Jewish convert to Catholicism who was gassed at Auschwitz in 1942, saw the cross as central in her own life: "I understood the cross as the destiny of God's people. . . . I felt that those who understood the cross of Christ should take it upon themselves on everybody's behalf." How willing are you to take up the cross on behalf of others? What would you risk for the sake of what is right and just?

MEMORIAL OF TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, MARTYR

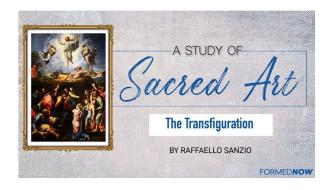
Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412). "Take care not to forget the LORD."





This Week on Formed

Week of August 03, 2025



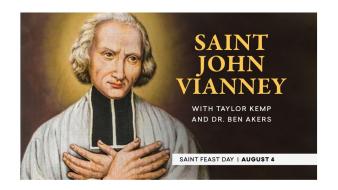
The Transfiguration | Sacred Art

Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp sit down with Raffaello Sanzio's painting, "The Transfiguration," to discuss its theological meaning and how it can speak to us today.



Edith Stein: The Seventh Chamber

This film is a moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert, and Carmelite martyr, Edith Stein. It powerfully captures the interior struggles of this extraordinary woman and her journey toward the Lord.



Saint John Vianney | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss St. John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars and patron saint of parish priests.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



Diocesan Bulletin

Mid-Summer - July/August 2025

https://rcdos.ca

In all things we are rooted in Christ, in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

Upcoming Events

The Alpha Marriage Course will run 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday evenings July 31 to Sept. 11, to renew and strengthen relationships. Held in Fr. Donlevy Hall at St. Anne Catholic Church, 217 Lenore Dr., Saskatoon, the seven sessions include a video presentation, private discussion with your spouse, and delicious dessert. Register at https://saintannes.ca/the-marriage-course or contact Erin Hickey at ehickey@rcdos.ca for information.

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle includes adoration, rosary, benediction, hymns and various prayers, 7:30 p.m. July 31 at St. Michael Parish #18-33rd St. E., Saskatoon. For more info, call Edna (306) 382-1680.

Saskatoon Welcomes Bishop from Nigeria: The African-Canadian Catholic Community of Saskatoon invites all to a special Eucharistic celebration at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3 at Holy Spirit Parish, 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, with Bishop John Nimaza Niyiring, OSA, of Nigeria presiding. Refreshments and fellowship follows.

Jesus Youth Saskatchewan pilgrimage will be held Sunday, Aug. 3 at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at St. Laurent (near Duck Lake), a designated pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Gather at 2 p.m. Aug. 3; adoration and confessions 3 p.m. at Grotto; Mass at 4 p.m., followed by a potluck meal. RSVP to: contact.sk@jesusyouth.ca or online at: https://forms.gle/4aMRdmqc1Kqj5qWV6.

Saskatoon Pro-Life Action Week: Canadian Centre for Bioethical Reform (CCBR) Calgary interns will team up with Saskatoon Against Abortion for local pro-life outreach from Aug. 4 to 9, with encouragement and support from Bishop Mark Hagemoen. Dialogue training will be offered Aug. 4 and Aug. 5. Saskatchewan Pro-Life will also be presenting a wrap-up event the evening of Friday, Aug. 8. For more information contact Jeff Owen at jowen@endthekilling.ca.

Reconciling All Things In Christ - All are welcome to two evenings of worship, prayer, and learning presented by the Evangelical Orthodox Church for the sake of unity and reconciliation Aug. 8-9, held at Knox United Church, Spadina Cres. E. in Saskatoon. Begins 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8 (with keynote speaker Dr. Gordon T. Smith) and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 (with keynote speaker Vesper Stamper).

Volunteer Sacristan needed

Hospital Chaplaincy in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is seeking a volunteer to assist with Mass

4 p.m. Sundays at Saskatoon City Hospital

1-2 times per month according to a three-week rotation; (includes assisting some Roman Catholic patients to Mass). Contact Hospital Chaplaincy coordinator Jackie Saretsky at (306) 292-5531 or email jsaretsky@rcdos.ca.

Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be held Sunday, Aug. 17, with pilgrims walking from St. Augustine Church in Humboldt and from St. Bruno Church in Bruno, to the Mount Carmel Shrine, accompanied by prayer, song, and fellowship. Pilgrims leave Humboldt at 9 a.m.; time for Bruno departure to be announced, Confessions will be held at 4 p.m. at the shrine, with Mass celebrated at 5 p.m. followed by testimonials and praise and worship. For details contact St. Augustine at (306) 682-2106.

Pursue the Power of Persistent Prayer with St. Monica – An evening of speakers, conversation, prayer and dessert will be held for men and women on Wednesday, Aug. 27, the Feast Day of St. Monica, who prayed for many years for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine of Hippo. Every family is affected by loved ones who have fallen away, walked away, or run away from the Church. Gather for fellowship and prayer at Saint Anne Parish, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon to hold each other in hope: doors open at 6 p.m., speakers and discussion 6:30 p.m., followed by 8 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration RSVP to brendatryhuba@gmail.com or (306) 260-3612.

St. Philomena Mother-Daughter Retreat Sept. 12-14:

Based on biblical wisdom, Catholic teachings, and the theology of St. John Paul II, this weekend retreat is geared towards girls ages 11 to 14 years and their moms. Presented Sept. 12-14 by Regnum Christi Regina at St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey at Muenster, SK, it runs from 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 (no supper provided) to 1 p.m. Sunday Sept. 14 (after lunch). The fee is \$475 per mother-daughter pair, which includes two nights' accommodations at picturesque St. Peter's Abbey, as well as meals and all retreat materials. Register at **philomenaretreat.org** or e-mail any questions to laurencayer@sasktel.net.

Message Board

Walking Pilgrimage to Rama starts Aug. 11 in Yorkton SK. and finishes Aug. 14 at the shrine at Rama, SK. This is a guided walking pilgrimage with rest stops, meals, support vehicles, and a trailer carrying tents and sleeping gear to each overnight stop. Mass or Divine Liturgy is celebrated each day and everyone is welcome to join those celebrations as a way to show support for the pilgrimage and the pilgrims! Info: stphilomena.ca or (306) 728-5525.

Bus from Saskatoon/Humboldt to Rama Pilgrimage Aug. 14: cost is \$40 (payable in advance, non-refundable) for the bus which will depart Thursday, Aug. 14 from two locations in the city: St. Patrick Church, 3339 Centennial Cr. at 10 a.m. and Holy Family Cathedral, 123 Nelson Rd. at 10:15 a.m., with a stop in Humboldt to pick up passengers at St. Augustine Church, 809-10th St., at 11:15 a.m. Pilgrimage events start at Rama at 3 p.m. Aug. 14, with praying of the Chaplet, Rosary, and Stations of the Cross; supper at 4:30 pm (bring your own or to purchase supper tickets call pilgrimage organizers by Aug. 1 at 306-593-6120); hymns at 6 p.m., and Mass at 8 p.m. with Archbishop Donald Bolen, followed by a candlelight procession and adoration. The bus departs for home at 11 p.m. Aug. 14. To book a seat, contact Astrid Alas at (306) 659-5858 or amalas@rcdos.ca or Ester Canda at (306) 881-1773.

The 80th Annual Rama Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 104-1st Street North, Rama, SK will be held **Aug. 14-15**. Begins 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, with Mass at 8 p.m. and continues Friday, Aug. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (including Mass in Polish and English, as well as Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite). See: www.Ramashrine.ca.

St. Laurent Celebrations: Feast of the Assumption **Aug. 15** will be celebrated at the historic Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Laurent, SK, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Grotto with confessions, Rosary, and devotions, with Mass celebrated at 8 p.m. with Bishop Stephen Hero, followed by a candlelight procession to the log church. There will also be a celebration on **Sept. 8** for the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, starting at 6 p.m., with Mass at 7 p.m., followed by birthday cake and coffee. Find more information on the shrine website at: **www.saintlaurentshrine.com**.

Volunteers needed to lead the Rosary - Do you have a heart for outreach to those who are seeking the consolation of prayer? The diocesan Restorative Ministry Office is seeking volunteers to come to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre to pray the Rosary with men in prison. Orientation and support will be provided. For more information, please contact diocesan prison ministry coordinator Dianne Anderson at danderson@rcdos.ca or (306) 659-5845.



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Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

To obtain a Jubilee Indulgence for visiting a designated sacred site, performing works of mercy, and/or undertaking acts of penance, the following conditions must be met: detachment from sin, making a sacramental Confession, receiving Holy Communion, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Learn more and/or find the list of sacred sites in our diocese at: rcdos.ca/jubilee-2025.

Columbus Bosco Saskatoon's annual "Corn Roast Fundraiser" will be held Thursday, Sept. 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Farm School, located 20 km from Saskatoon: \$25 each. Contact Lorne at (306) 227-7576 or Chris (306) 221-4686. E-transfer e-mail is cboscostoon@gmail.com.

Hymnals available – St. Mark Parish, Langham, SK, has 58 like-new Catholic Book of Worship III hymnals available to give away. Contact stmarkscatholic423@gmail.com or call (306) 716-1063.

Pews for Sale in Lancer, SK: Solid oak pews \$20,000; in excellent condition (must be viewed to appreciate), featuring curved bench seats, sides and backs; padded kneelers, and storage on the back of seats for missals/hymnals. For inquiries/viewing please contact eam.wagner@gmail.com.

Diocesan Employment Opportunity

Permanent full-time Executive Assistant to the Curia (full-time, permanent position) at the Catholic Centre. Find the job description at rcdos.ca/employment. Submit resume and a brief cover letter to hr@rcdos.ca.

Diocesan Prayer - We pray for grandparents and the elderly; may the joy of the Gospel radiate from them and inspire children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come; we pray for young people; may they be inspired to spend quality time with their grandparents and elders in pursuit of Christ's message of presence and encounter.

World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly July 27

The Diocesan Bulletin is a publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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