



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter (C)
May 4, 2025

Do You Love Me?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Three times, Jesus asked Simon Peter: “Do you love me?” (John 21:16). This is the same Peter who earlier had sworn three times that, even if everyone else deserted Jesus, he never would. He was so sure of himself. Now, realizing the unreliability of his loyalty to Jesus, Peter is not so quick to answer with such self-confidence. Note that Peter did not reply with a straightforward “Yes!” Rather, he amplified each response with the telling words, “You know...”. With these words, Peter acknowledged that Jesus could read his mind and heart, that Jesus knew

Peter’s genuine love of him despite his all-too-human weakness. This itself was an act of faith.

This simple exchange did not humiliate Peter. That was not Jesus’ way. They both understood what Peter had done, and they both knew how brokenhearted it had left him. Peter was humbled—not by Jesus but by the recognition of his own human frailty. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, Jesus commissioned Peter to be leader among his followers. Another person might have chosen a more reliable man. However, there is great strength and wisdom in a leader who has learned from experience how circumstances might cause otherwise brave people to turn their backs on their responsibilities and run from danger. Such a leader will challenge while being compassionate and stand firm while being understanding. This is the kind of leader Jesus chose, for he knew that Peter would be that kind of leader. †



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not by Jesus but
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his own human frailty.**

A Word from Pope Francis

Do you love me? Jesus asks you, me, us, who have empty nets and are often afraid to start again; to you, me, and all of us who do not have the courage to dive in and have perhaps lost our momentum.... May Our Lady, who readily said “yes” to the Lord, help us to rediscover the impulse to do good.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 1, 2022



Sunday Readings

Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

Revelation 5:11–14

And [the angels] cried out in a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.”

John 21:1–19 or John 21:1–14

[Peter answered Jesus,] “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” [Jesus] said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What have I learned about myself from my mistakes?
- Do I recognize the second chances I’ve been given?



Embracing Our Differences

John Paul George

We live in a society in which some feel the need to bully others because of the way they look, the way they live, or what they believe, among other things. I hope my

story encourages those who bully to think twice before committing this awful act. To those who are suffering or who have suffered from the effects of bullying, my goal is to be an inspiration, so you can see that you are amazing just the way you are. We are all different and unique. God made us that way; that's what makes us special.

I am different because I live each day with a life-threatening disability. This is my cross, but I own it. I share my story so that others, no matter what they may be going through, can

relate to certain feelings and catch that glimmer of hope. I have learned to deal with the struggle and fear of being different. I think many can identify with that. Living with half a heart is also not my only obstacle. I am very short for my age—most people think I am eleven years old when, in reality, I am twenty. When I go into a restaurant, I'm still offered a kid's menu and crayons. These issues are difficult, but I own them, and that's what makes me John Paul. I'm happy to be alive, doing the will of God. I thank him for allowing me to be in the world and, hopefully, to help others through the telling of my story. I can't change who I am, but I can change the world as I am. †

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and unique.
God made us
that way.**

From *Heart of a Lion: A Story of God's Grace and a Family's Hope* by Derek and John Paul George, Liguori Publications (825453). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "St. Joseph: The Christian Model" by Fr. Larry Toschi, OSJ

Do you see work as an expression of love for God and others? Without that perspective, it's easy to see work as nothing more than a means of financial reward—an incomplete and shallow definition indeed. As patron of workers, Joseph helps those who are out of work, those deciding on an educational or career path, and those in established occupations. He's a model for all forms of work, not only for employees and employers but also for stay-at-home parents, elderly volunteers, and young children in school. Where there is work to be done, Joseph will protect, equip, and guide us in all of our needs. Go to him.

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



Lord Jesus, give me
the insight to recognize
my mistakes,
the wisdom to learn
from them,
and the humility to
seek forgiveness.
Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 5–10

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 7:51—8:1a / Jn 6:30–35

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:1b–8 / Jn 6:35–40

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69

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