



God, Death, and Us

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

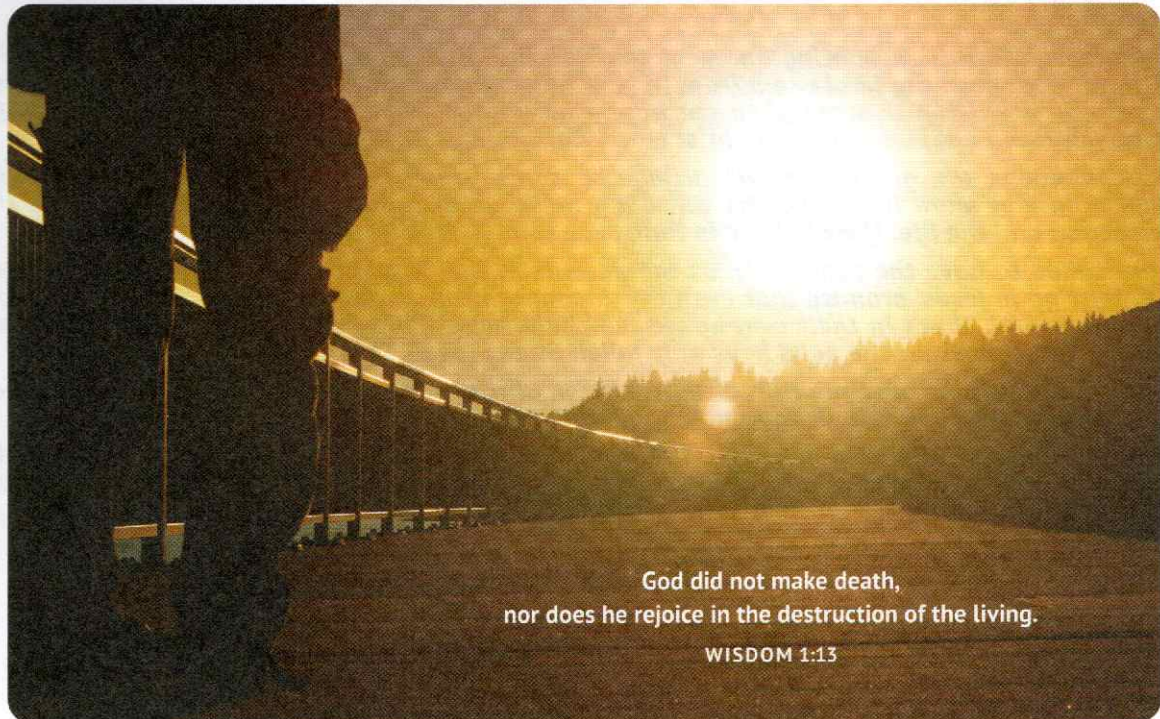
The hospital called, saying a young man had been in an accident and wanted to see a priest. As it turned out, I found him in a coma, and it was his parents who sparked the phone call. His girlfriend was there, and so the two of us talked about the accident and what happened, then about Michael and his interests and gentleness, and eventually his faith and goodness. She didn't understand, she told me, why God would do this to someone so good and how God certainly must have wanted this to happen.

I wanted to tell her I didn't believe God did this sort of thing, orchestrating traffic accidents. I hesitated, but then said so, only I tried to say it gently and kindly so it might be less like a lecture in Spirituality 101. I mumbled something about not believing in that sort of God, that I didn't believe God handed out death or suffering to folks. With her head hanging down, she just said, no—she thought God did.

Well, it seemed to me that that was not the time for any theological debate on questions about God, so I simply said no more about it. Then she and I prayed for Michael, or rather I prayed aloud, and she just sat there holding my hand and maybe praying silently or maybe not praying at all—I really wasn't sure. After I left I found myself wondering if she thought as much about my response as I thought about her answer. ●

Reflect

*Where do you find God
when bad things happen?*



God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.

WISDOM 1:13

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....Phone 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com Website: marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

JUNE 30, 2024 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God, who formed us in His imperishable image, did not intend for us to die, we hear in today's First Reading. Death entered the world through the devil's envy and Adam and Eve's sin; as a result, we are all bound to die.

But in the moving story in today's Gospel, we see Jesus liberate a little girl from the possession of death.

On one level, Mark is recounting an event that led the disciples to understand Jesus' authority and power over even the final enemy, death (see 1 Corinthians 15:26). On another level, however, this episode is written to strengthen our hope that we too will be raised from the dead, along with all our loved ones who sleep in Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:18).

Jesus commands the girl to "Arise!"—using the same Greek word used to describe His own resurrection (see Mark 16:6). And the consoling message of today's Gospel is that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If we believe in Him, even though we die, we will live (John 15:25-26).

We are called to have the same faith as the parents in the Gospel today—praying for our loved ones, trusting in Jesus' promise that even death cannot keep us apart. Notice the parents follow Him even though those in their own house tell them there is no hope, and even though others ridicule Jesus' claim that the dead have only fallen asleep (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Already in Baptism, we've been raised to new life in Christ. And the Eucharist, like the food given to the little girl today, is the pledge that He will raise us on the last day.

We should rejoice, as we sing in today's Psalm, that He has brought us up from the netherworld, the pit of death. And, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should offer our lives in thanksgiving for this gracious act, imitating Christ in our love and generosity for others.

Bulletin Information: **MARAK:** Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin Deadline: Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR JULY 7, 2024

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Eucharistic Minister: Kelly Laurence

Lector: Misty Green

Offertory: Garrett Prcin Family

Ushers: Richard Brenek and Charles Teague

Servers: Paige, Claire, Kate K.

Sanctuary Light: July 1st-7th: In Memory of Deceased Members of the Paul Hubnik Family

Prayer Chain...Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Kay & Ed Moraw, and those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need.

To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—June 30 – July 7, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—6/30	10:15am	+ Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa + Stanley Hubnik by Billy and Mary Ann Seaton + Jerry Sipula by Leroy and Kathy Vansa + Jerry Wade by Adolph and Dorothy Vansa
7/3—Wednesday	5:30pm	Communion Service
7/7—Sunday	10:15am	+ Stanley Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik + Henry Hubnik Sr. and Johnathan Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik + Living and Deceased Members of the Hubnik and Sipula Families by Janice Johnson + Calvin Junek by Aline Junek

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

CYCLONE/MARAK CHURCH PARTY: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Summer Party for all parishioners on Sunday, July 14th in Marak under the Father Walter Pavilion from 4-8PM. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served. Plan on eating at approximately 6PM. Water slides will be set up for the kids as well as tables and chairs under the pavilion for everyone. Come when you can and enjoy visiting with all of our church family!

**6-23: Sunday Offering: \$1,070.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

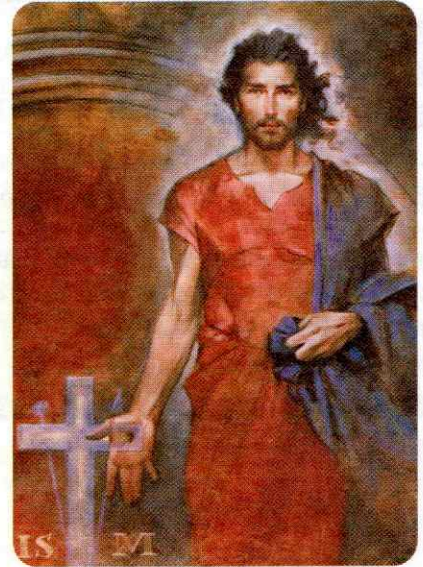
Dear Padre,

Does God have a plan for each of us?

We collaborate with God through continual prayer and discernment in planning out our best path of life. This path allows us to fulfill God's ultimate plan—namely, to find meaning in the life he gave us, enjoy his friendship while on earth, and spend eternal life with him in heaven.

God doesn't force us to live out our existence in some programmed, robotic way according to a predestined plan or inevitable fate over which we have no control. Rather, we're free and responsible for our own actions.

Moreover, God's plan for each of us is to experience his profound love and love him in return. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). As the supreme sign of God's love, his plan of salvation from the beginning of time was to send us his only begotten Son. "Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains...in his first sermon on Pentecost: 'This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599). "By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part" (CCC 604). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Weekday	Weekday	St. Thomas, Apostle	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 2:6–10, 13–16 Mt 8:18–22	Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 Mt 8:23–27	Eph 2:19–22 Jn 20:24–29	Am 7:10–17 Mt 9:1–8	Am 8:4–6, 9–12 Mt 9:9–13	Am 9:11–15 Mt 9:14–17	Ez 2:2–5 2 Cor 12:7–10 Mk 6:1–6a

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let Jesus look at and heal your heart.... And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step.... Love alone heals life.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021