



Love of the Law

Years ago, I saw a chart in a catechism that identified the faith of the Old Testament as a religion of law and that of the New Testament as a religion of love. This is not only seriously wrong, it is also dangerously biased. The two commandments to love as recorded in today's Gospel originate in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, respectively. Several of the prophets describe God's love of Israel in tender, even passionate, terms (Isaiah 43:1, Jeremiah 31:3). To think otherwise is to tread alarmingly close to a form of anti-Judaism. We must remember that the religion Jesus loved deeply, and which he sought to bring to fulfillment, was the religion of ancient Israel.

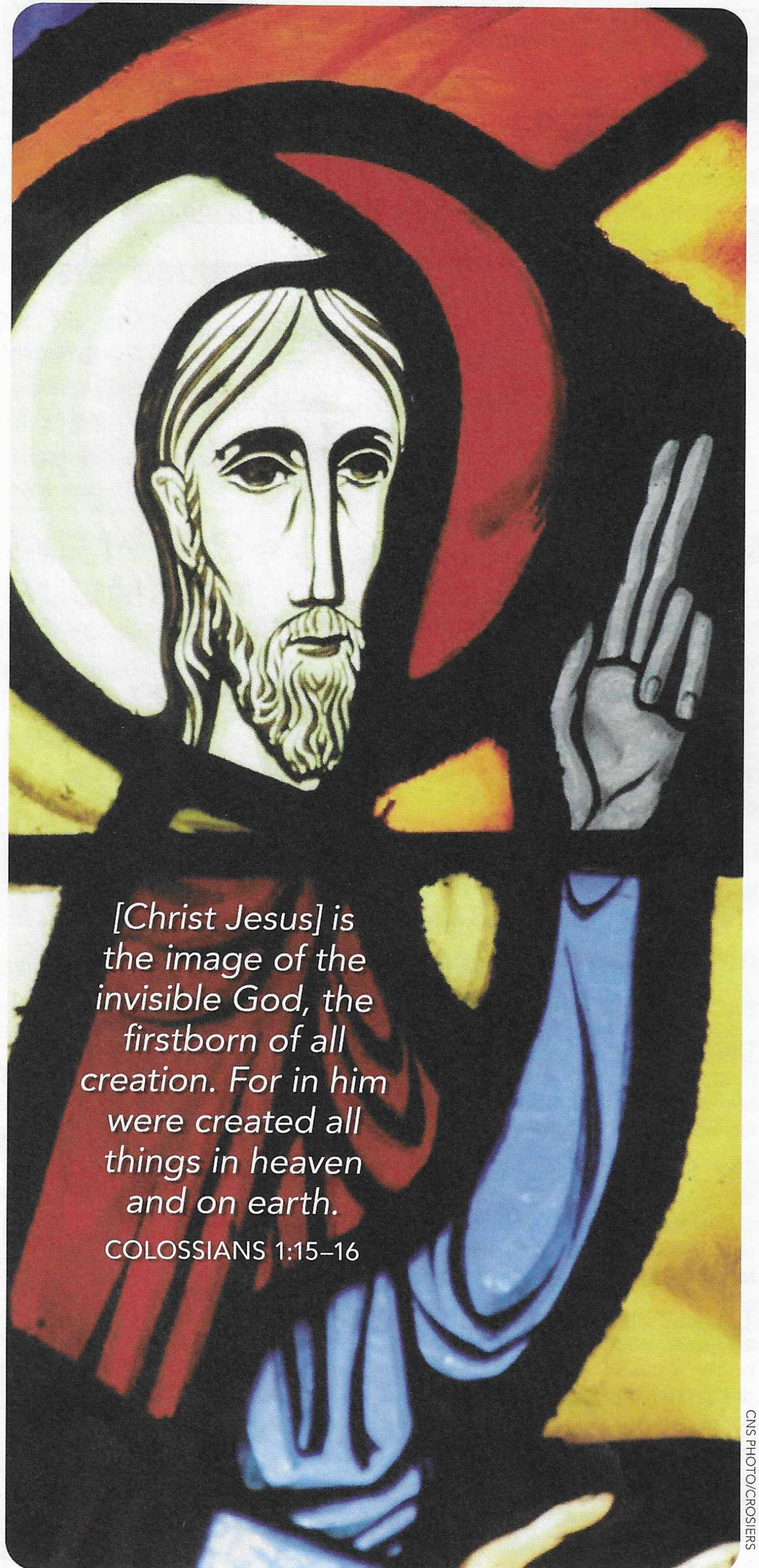
Part of the error of that chart might have been a misunderstanding of the meaning of law. We might think of *law* as "proscription" or "restriction" (you must...or you must not...). The Hebrew meaning is more flexible. Some translate the Hebrew word *torah* as "instruction" or "directive." The psalmist delights in the law because it refreshes the soul and rejoices the heart. Today's first reading tells us that the law is already in our hearts. The law of love was certainly in the heart of the Samaritan who cared for the stranger on the side of the road.

If we can see that laws are meant to help us care for ourselves, others, and the world, we will soon realize that living as the laws direct us might bring us to a deep love for the law.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *What is the relationship between the rules or customs in your family and the love you have for its members?*
- ★ *Reflect on today's responsorial Psalm 19:8–11.*



[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth.

COLOSSIANS 1:15–16

The Week Ahead

Sat / July 9th

St. Augustine, Zhao, Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

3-3:45 pm: Confessions, in the Library

4 pm Vigil Mass: Rudy Persha † by Isabelle Weist

Peter's Pence Collection

Sun / July 10th The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 am Mass: Buddy and Anne Kootz (SI) by Buddy and Anne Kootz

Peter's Pence Collection

Knights of Columbus Breakfast after Mass, in the Parish Hall

Mon / July 11th St. Benedict, Abbot

9 am Mass: Bud Kootz (Sr.) † by Buddy and Anne Kootz

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING AT 5:30

Tue / July 12th

No Mass

Wed / July 13th St. Henry

6 pm Mass: Greg Waggoner † by Joe and Doris Waggoner

PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM

Thu / July 14th St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

9 am Mass: For Dec. Family † by Bill and Aggie Budewig

6 pm **B-I-N-G-O**, in the Parish Hall

We appreciate and thank all the Bingo teams and Brother Knights for their support and service

Fri / July 15th St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9 am Mass: Marie Curry † by Matt and Mary Winston

Sat / July 16th Our Lady of Mount Carmel

3-3:45 pm: Confessions, in the Library

4 pm Vigil Mass: Tracey Kocz by Mary Kocz

Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection

Sun / July 17th The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 am Mass: Cathy Duncan (SI) by Dean Beardslee

Monthly Maintenance Fund Collection

Coffee & Donuts after Mass, in the Parish Hall

Altar Flowers this week are compliments of:

Maureen Matselboba in memory of Mary Kay †

Tabernacle Roses this week are compliments of:

Isabelle Wiest in memory of Rudy Persha †

Coffee & Donuts next week, July 17th, will be served by Michael Burton & group # 4.

Thought for the week...

The SAINTS are not supermen,
nor were they born perfect.

When they recognized
GOD'S LOVE they followed it and
SERVED OTHERS.

Pope Francis



Wishing you a blessed week!



July 2nd - 3rd, 2022 Collection

Regular Collection - \$ 54.96

Many thanks to you for your sacrificial giving!

Birthdays For the Week:

Brian Dilorio, 9th

Joyce Speir, 9th

John Paul Ishmael, 13th

Chloe Pospisil, 14th

Mr. D. Glen Rupert, 14th

We wish you many blessings on your birthday

Anniversaries For the Week:

Lynn and Terry Phelps, 11th

We wish you many blessings on your Anniversary

Open Adoration Hours

Monday: 2-3 pm

Friday: 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm

*If you are interested in one of the above hours
(or any hour), call Rose, 870-994-2744, or Anne,
870-847-1985. Please Note: substitutes are always
needed, please call and volunteer.*

Join Us THIS Sunday, June 10th, for Breakfast after Mass!

Adults/\$8; children 6-12/\$4, ages 6 & under/free

PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM

On July 13th, Wednesday, instead of weekday Mass, the Knights of Columbus, Council 6969, will be hosting a Pilgrim Icon Prayer Program, for St. Joseph at St. Michael's.

The program will consist of hymns, prayers, readings, a Rosary, Litany of St. Joseph, and Papal Reflections. Everyone is invited from St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Come pray with us for this special event. We will only have this one program and the Icon must move on.

ALL LADIES

The laundering of the small Altar Linens is handled by a handful of dedicated women of the parish. We would like to invite more ladies to participate in this humble, but important service. Time involved is once/ week for about 3-5 hours total. Usually we serve for a month at a time, two or more times a year. "Substitutes only" are also welcome. For more information please contact: Anne Kootz at 870-847-1985.

Let Us Have our Love, for the, Holy Eucharistic Lord !

I kindly remind You All that the COVID restrictions are now completely lifted in our Diocese.

You can no longer get credit for attending the Holy Mass by watching It on EWTN or YouTube.

You have to actually attend a live Mass and encouraged to receive Holy Communion and to spend a little time in adoration in the presence of Blessed Sacrament.

So we will be more happy to see, more of you on the weekdays and Saturdays and Sundays.

I appreciate and thank you all, for All Your kind Prayers and loving support and generous Sacrifices, for our St. Michael's Community.

God Bless You and
Bless All Your Dear and Near Ones.
Fr. Amal Punganoor 07/01/2022

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Parents: We are in need of youth to serve at the altar during the weekend Masses. If your child has received First Holy Communion and would like to serve, please text Buddy Kootz at 870-847-0264 or email: bkootz77@gmail.com. We hope to have a training session soon. Thank you for your service!

Prayer for Priests

"I encourage you to pray for priests, for your parish priest, for those who are close to you and know..., so that through your prayer the Lord will strengthen them in their vocation, comfort them in their ministry and always be ministers of Joy of the Gospel for all people." ~ Pope Francis

(Let's also remember to pray for Eternal Rest for those priests who have died. †)

On behalf of our parish I want to take this opportunity **We Thank Mr. Mike Gagne** for serving as our Grand Knight for the last four years. We appreciate all his generosity and sacrifices for our Parish Community. May God bless Mike and bless all his near and dear loved ones.

We would like to **Congratulate and Welcome Mr. Michael Epperson** as our Grand Knight. We wish him all success in his new journey serving our Parish Community as Grand Knight. May God bless Michael and bless all his near and dear loved ones.

We thank all our Brother Knights for their generous service and support for our Parish Community.

Food Pantry Collection

Thank you for your response to July's Food Pantry Collection, 121 items were donated!

Items Needed for Next Month

Powdered Milk, Cereal, Instant Oatmeal,
Tuna and Laundry Soap

Food Pantry Aid did say they are low on a lot of items!

God bless you!

Dear Padre,

Why must I choose practicing Catholics as my baby's godparents?

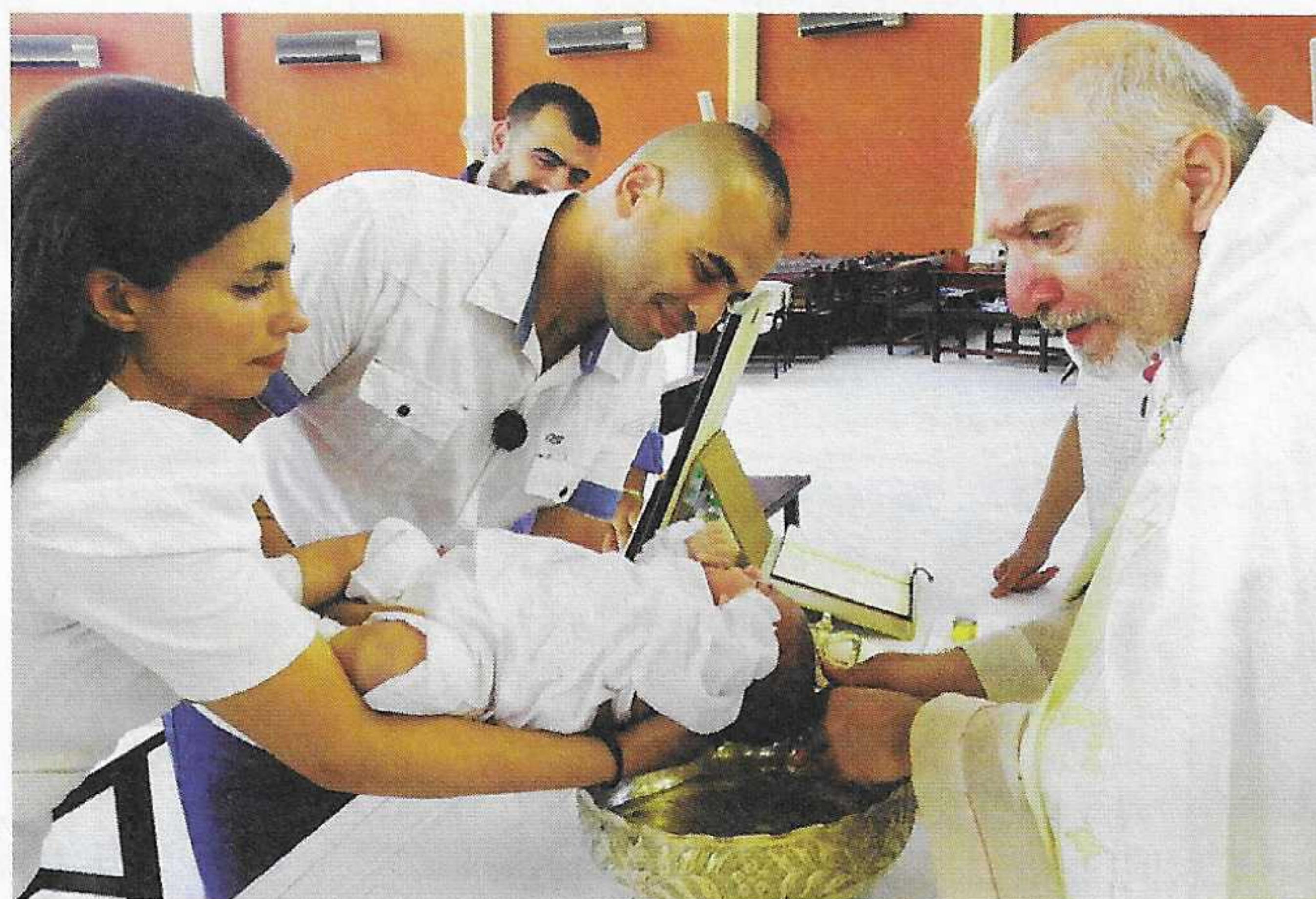
The Church is clear about the qualifications of godparents: at least sixteen years old; one woman and one man leading lives of faith; confirmed and having already received Communion (see Canons 872–874). *Godparent* isn't simply an honorary title we bestow on someone. It's an important role of trust in the child's faith life.

We grow in trust for someone via a gradual process of getting to know that person: being introduced, spending time together, talking to one another, learning about each other, and being generous with one another.

That's how trust in Jesus develops. Parents and godparents introduce us to him, teach us to pray. We talk to Jesus on our own and learn more about him through Scripture. Our parents take us to church. We watch their example and that of our godparents. We learn from the parish, the Catholic school, and our *Catechism*. It's a gradual process of getting to know Jesus that leads us to trust him and have faith in him.

At baptism, the priest or deacon lights a candle from the large Easter candle. In many parishes, the candle is passed first to the godfather. "Receive the light of Christ," says the priest. The godfather passes it to the godmother, who passes it to the mother, who hands it to the father to hold for the child. That is how faith comes to us: a gift from God, but through other people. Parents and godparents must have the bright flame of faith in their own hearts if they hope to pass it to their child.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CNS PHOTO/DOREEN ABI RAAD

Calendar

Monday

JULY 11

St. Benedict, Abbot

Is 1:10–17

Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

JULY 12

Weekday

Is 7:1–9

Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

JULY 13

Weekday

Is 10:5–7, 13b–16

Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

JULY 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin

Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19

Mt 11:28–30

Friday

JULY 15

St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8

Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

JULY 16

Weekday

Mi 2:1–5

Mt 12:14–21

Sunday

JULY 17

Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1–10a

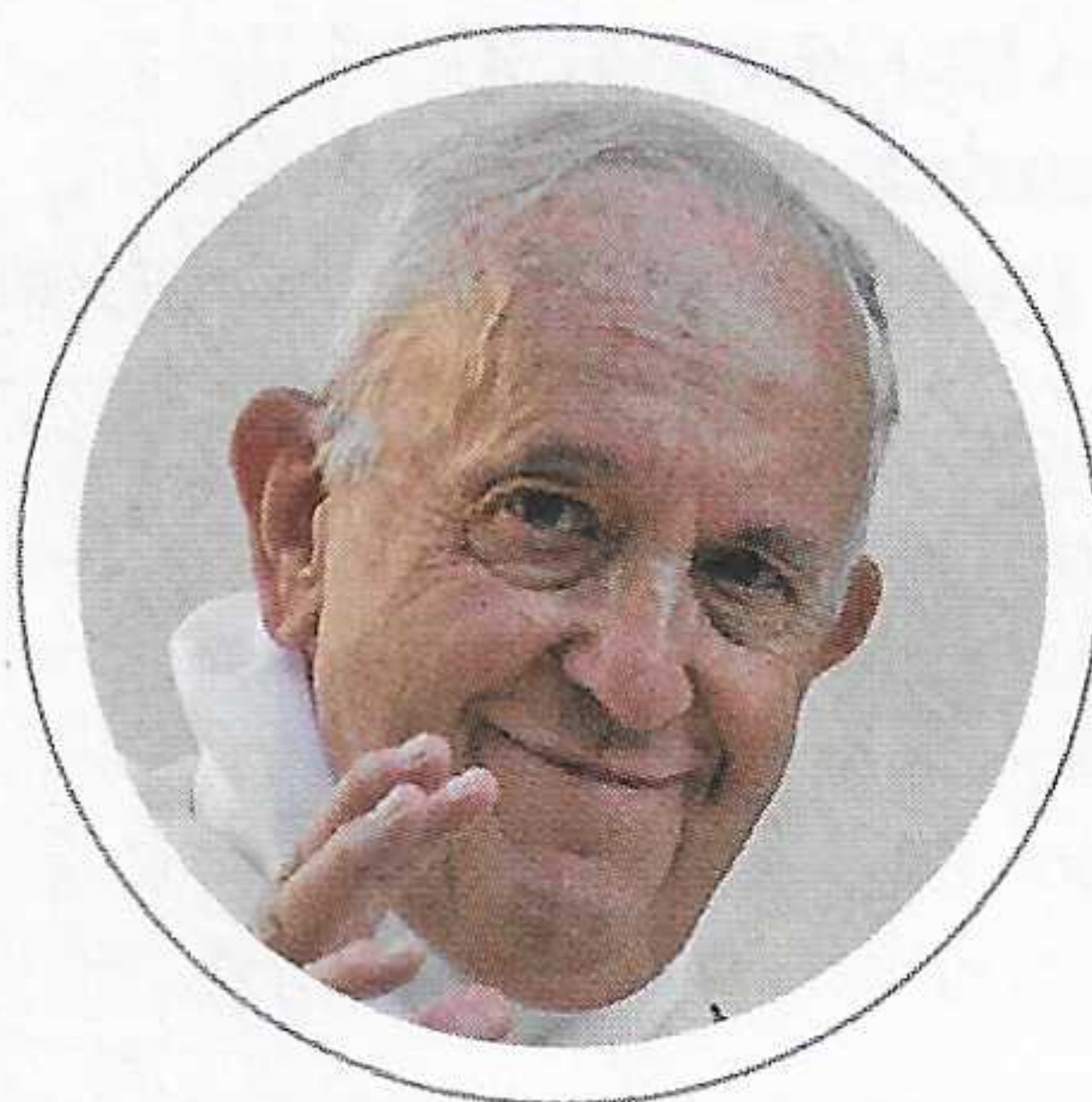
Col 1:24–28

Lk 10:38–42

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

It is the duty of the parents, together with the godfathers and godmothers, to take care to nurture the flame of baptismal grace in their little ones, helping them persevere in the faith. Children have the right to Christian formation, which "seeks to lead them gradually to learn God's plan in Christ."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, MAY 16, 2018



Liguori Publications is celebrating 75 years of ministry throughout 2022.

Follow progress toward our October 23 anniversary date in *Liguorian* magazine and at Liguori.org.