

Joshua said to all the people....,
“As for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD.”

JOSHUA 24:2, 15C

Taking a Stand Matters

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day I happened to be sitting and chatting with some teenagers. When the discussion turned to parents, expectations, and how they respond, I asked them, “What’s really important to you? What do you value and try not to compromise on?” “Why do you want to know?” one asked. “Just wondering,” I said. Silence. Then one said that being honest was really important to her, that she always tried to tell the truth. Another said “family.” Another, respecting his body, said, “No drugs, no alcohol.” More silence, and then one spoke of her faith and how it really mattered and made a difference in her life. Their conversation then moved on to other things, friends, movies, and what to do later that day.

In reality, I had another reason for asking my question, one beyond a simple inquiry. There is something good about saying aloud what is truly important to us, what we won’t compromise on. Saying it out loud makes it more real, something we can stand for. Some of those teens didn’t say anything, maybe because they had never thought about what their values were. Perhaps hearing others speak up inspired them to think about it, maybe for the first time in their lives. Saying aloud where we stand in life makes a difference.

Jesus reminds us that it is the spirit that gives life, that the flesh is of no avail. Some of those teens have already begun to realize this truth. ●

Reflect

What are some values that you do not forsake easily? Why?

Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor
Rev. William Pifher
419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441
Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

CRE

Mary Bird

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtceexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office six months ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

THE BATHROOM RENOVATIONS HAVE BEGUN!

The bathrooms are UNAVAILABLE until further notice. A port-a-potty is in the south parking lot for your use.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

There will be a brief parent orientation with Father Bill and the CCD team today, Aug. 25, 2024 after Mass. Registration will take place then and the religious education calendar will be distributed. We are excited to implement new catechetical resources this year, for which there will soon be a training session for catechists and parents.

MASS AT THE FULTON CO. FAIR

Mass will be on Saturday August 31, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tedrow Gospel building at the Southwest end of the fair grounds (across from the Jr. Fair Building)

FULTON COUNTY FAIR AUG. 30 THRU SEPT. 5

What a **GREAT** way to Evangelize. We are in need of 8 volunteers to fill two hour slots for Our Lady of Mercy's times in the Catholic booth at the Fulton Co. Fair. Not only will you be able to spread the news of the Catholic Faith, but you can enjoy some of the yummy fair food (Italian ices are the best). See the bulletin board for the time slots that need to be filled.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Have you thought about becoming Catholic? Would you like more information on the Catholic Faith? Or you would like to brush up on your knowledge of the Catholic Faith? Please contact the office either email

OLOMFayette@olom211.onmicrosoft.com or call 419-237-2441 Tues./Thurs. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success, but on Jesus alone." - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

DIARY OF SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA

Notebook 1

528 On Friday, during Mass, when my soul was flooded with God's happiness, I heard these words in my soul: **My mercy has passed into souls through the divine-human Heart of Jesus as a ray from the sun passes through crystal.** I felt in my heart and understood that every approach to God is brought about by Jesus, in Him and through Him.

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---May 4 – Sept. 28 – Farmers Market, Opera House parking lot 9 am – 1 pm

---Aug. 30-Sept. 5 Fulton Co. Fair

---Sept. 28 – 38th Annual Steps for Life Walkathon & 5k Run please visit cpcnwo.org for more information & registration

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at vanzilejn@hotmail.com or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163.

Privacy Issues for Parish Office:

IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.



DIOCESE OF TOLEDO NEWS

HELP WANTED

The Diocese has openings for employment. Check out the list at toledodiocese.org/careers

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO CALENDAR

For additional happenings in the Diocese of Toledo please visit toledodiocese.org/calendar

2024 CENTURY FARM AWARD APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for Century Farm Awards. This award designation honors Catholic families who have maintained a farm or homestead within their family for at least 100 years in the Diocese of Toledo, emphasizing well-preserved working farms.

Applicants must submit a registration form, copies of old deeds, and pictures to support claims. The information submitted must show family residence and ownership of a farm for at least 100 years in the Diocese of Toledo. Applications should be submitted no later than Friday, October 4, 2024.

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will celebrate a Mass honoring Century Farm Award recipients at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 66 Chapel Street, Monroeville, Ohio 44847. For more information or to request the registration form, please contact: Paula J. Kidney at (419) 214-4898 or email: pkidney@toledodiocese.org

MASS ON ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

Each year, the Diocese of Toledo celebrates the gift of marriage with the annual Mass on Anniversaries of Marriage. If you are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2024 – 25, 40, 50, 60, or 60+ years – plan to join Bishop Daniel E. Thomas for the Order of Blessing Married Couples within Holy Mass on Sunday, October 27th, 3:00pm at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Blvd, Toledo. Registered couples receive a commemorative certificate and are invited to a reception following mass. To register visit: www.toledoanniversarymass.org

PROJECT RACHEL

A one-day healing retreat for woman who are hurting after an experience with abortion will be offered in the Diocese of Toledo on Saturday, November 16, 2024. To register or learn more, contact Kerstin, Project Rachel Coordinator in the Diocese of Toledo, at kpakka@toledodiocese.org or 419-260-5811.

OUR LADY OF MERCY ACA – 78.49%

Saints of the Day

(www.morningoffering.com)

Week of August 25– August 31

Sunday, Aug. 25– St. Genesius of Rome - St. Genesius of Rome (d. 303 AD) was a renowned actor and playwright, the leader of a popular acting troupe during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. When the Emperor was killing Christians, Genesius wrote plays to mock them and expose their secret rites to ridicule. To research for a play mocking baptism, he went to a priest pretending to desire the sacraments and was fully instructed as a catechumen. Genesius prepared his play and instructed the other actors in their parts. On performance day the Emperor was present. Genesius played the lead character seeking baptism, and the rite was performed in such a ludicrous manner that all present laughed. As the water was poured over Genesius' head by an actor playing the priest's part, Genesius saw a vision of the heavens opened and the hand of God touching him. He also saw an angel who showed him that his many sins had been washed away through the valid baptism he had just received. At that moment Genesius' heart was changed by the Holy Spirit and he believed in the truth of Christianity. At the conclusion of the play Genesius boldly declared his new faith, recounting how he had been a scoffer until that moment. He implored the audience, including the Emperor, to follow Christ. The crowd thought this was part of the performance, but once they understood it was real, Genesius was seized. The Emperor, furious, subjected him to cruel tortures daily to make him renounce his faith in Christ. Genesius staunchly refused and was beheaded. The Christians collected his body and buried him with the other martyrs. St. Genesius is the patron saint of comedians, dancers, actors, musicians, printers, and torture victims. His feast day is August 25th.

Monday, Aug. 26– St. Orontius of Lecce - St. Orontius of Lecce (1st c.) was the son of the Roman imperial treasurer in Lecce, Italy. Upon his father's death he inherited the position. Orontius was converted to the Christian faith along with his nephew, Fortunatus, by Justus, a disciple of St. Paul the Apostle. Orontius was later denounced to the authorities as a Christian and was ordered to sacrifice to the pagan gods. He refused and was arrested, removed from his office, tortured, and exiled to Corinth together with Fortunatus. In Corinth the pair met St. Paul the Apostle, who consecrated Orontius as the first bishop of Lecce. When Orontius and Fortunatus returned to Lecce they were persecuted and imprisoned again, but were released and ordered to stop preaching. They continued to preach in the surrounding cities, and were arrested a third time and executed. St. Orontius' feast day is August 26th.

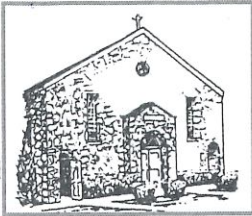
Tuesday, Aug. 27– St. Monica - St. Monica (322-387 A.D.) was raised in a Christian home in Tagaste, North Africa. Early in life she struggled with alcoholism, sneaking draughts of wine from the family cellar, before being caught and overcoming the habit. She was later given in marriage to an ill-tempered and adulterous pagan Roman official. She suffered greatly on account of her husband, and that of her unkind mother-in-law with whom she lived, and she fervently prayed for their conversion over the course of many years. Her patience and kindness became a source of encouragement to other unhappy housewives with whom she came in contact. Monica gave birth to three children, and she was grieved that her husband would not allow them to be baptized. Her eldest son, Augustine, was a wayward child and caused her the most pain, and she prayed fervently for decades for him to become a Christian. Through her persistence in prayer and good example, her husband was converted shortly before his death. When Augustine became entrenched in heretical sects and moved to Milan, St. Monica followed him. Monica befriended the Bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose, who consoled her by saying, "The child of those tears shall never perish." Augustine was eventually brought into the Church by St. Ambrose. Everything we know of St. Monica's heroic virtue is from the writings of her son, who became the great St. Augustine of Hippo, one of the most influential saints in Church history. St. Monica is patron of housewives, difficult marriages, alcoholism, mothers, widows, abuse victims, victims of adultery, and disappointing children. Her feast day is August 27th.

Wednesday, Aug. 28 – St. Augustine of Hippo - St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.) was born in North Africa to a pagan father and a Christian mother, St. Monica. His mother did her best to raise him in the Christian faith, but Augustine, a brilliant and promising young student, was carried away into worldly attractions, lust for women, and pagan philosophies. This put his faith and morals into a state of crisis for many years. His waywardness gave his holy mother great pain and anxiety as she watched her son pursue materialistic ambitions and keep company with heretical sects. Through her constant prayers and the holy preaching of St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, St. Augustine came to recognize the truth of Christianity; but only after several spiritually tumultuous years of seeking God through his philosophical studies. He underwent a profound conversion and was baptized, after which he lived a holy life of purity, prayer, and penance. His life is one of the greatest sinner-to-saint stories in the history of the Church. St. Augustine eventually became a priest, bishop, theologian, writer, and the founder of a religious order of priests. He was declared a Doctor of the Church and is considered one of the most influential saints and theologians to have ever lived, one whose writings are widely read to this very day. His feast day is celebrated on August 28.

Thursday, Aug. 29 – St. Sabina – St. Sabina (d. 126 A.D.) was a wealthy Roman noblewoman, a widow and the daughter of Herod Metallarius. She was converted to Christianity by her virtuous female slave, St. Serapia, a devout Christian from Antioch who entered into voluntary slavery with Sabina after forsaking marriage and consecrating herself to Christ. Following her conversion, St. Sabina's home became a secret meeting place for Christians where the sacraments were celebrated. St. Serapia was discovered to be a Christian and was burned alive and beheaded. St. Sabina recovered Serapia's body and buried it in a tomb. Within the same year St. Sabina was also killed for her faith and buried alongside Serapia. After Christianity was legalized in the 5th century, a basilica was built over St. Sabina's home on Aventine Hill. Originally dedicated to both saints, it is known today as Santa Sabina, one of Rome's most ancient churches. St. Sabina's feast day is August 29th.

Friday, Aug. 30 – St. Fiacre - St. Fiacre (d. 670 A.D.) was born in Ireland and was raised from childhood in an Irish monastery. There he grew in knowledge as well as holiness, and became a priest. He retired to a hermitage to live in prayer and solitude, but men began to flock to him to imitate his way of life and become his disciples. To escape them, Fiacre left Ireland to establish a new hermitage in France. He went to the bishop and asked for land to plant a garden to grow food as well as herbs for medicinal healing, a science which he studied in the monastery. The bishop agreed to give Fiacre as much land as he could entrench. Fiacre picked a plot of land and walked around its perimeter, dragging his shovel behind him. Wherever his spade touched the ground, the land was miraculously cleared and the soil became entrenched. St. Fiacre lived a life of great mortification in prayer, fasting, vigils, and manual labor in his garden. Disciples gathered around him again, and soon formed a monastery. St. Fiacre then built an oratory in honor of the Virgin Mary, a hospice in which he received strangers, and a cell for his own dwelling. His fame for performing miracles became widespread, and his garden became a place of pilgrimage for centuries for those seeking healing. St. Fiacre is best known as the patron of gardeners, florists, and cab drivers. His feast day is August 30th.

Saturday, Aug. 31 – St. Raymond Nonnatus - St. Raymond Nonnatus (1200-1240) was born in Catalonia, Spain, to a noble family. His life was saved by caesarean section after his mother died in childbirth, earning him the name 'Nonnatus' meaning 'one not born'. Raymond was a pious child drawn to the religious life, but his father had plans for him to serve in the royal court of the King of Aragon. To distract Raymond from his vocation, his father sent him to tend the family fields. This had the opposite effect and gave Raymond greater opportunity to pray in the country chapel. His father eventually allowed him to join the Mercedarians, a religious order which ransomed Christian slaves from their Muslim captors. Raymond became Master General of the order and personally freed hundreds of prisoners. When he ran out of money, he ransomed his own life to release Christians held in captivity. St. Raymond was tortured throughout his imprisonment, yet he converted numerous people to the Christian faith. To prevent him from preaching Christ, his captors pierced his lips with a red-hot iron and closed them with a padlock. He was eventually ransomed by his order and returned to Spain, and died a year later. After his death there was a dispute over who had the right to bury his body. To settle the matter, his body was placed on a blind mule and set loose. The mule went to the country chapel where Raymond had prayed in his youth, and it was there that he was buried. Many miracles were attributed to St. Raymond Nonnatus both before and after his death. He is the patron of children, childbirth, pregnant women, infants, and midwives. His feast day is August 31st.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish



AUGUST 25, 2024

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

| Date | Time | Church | Intention |
|----------------|-----------|--------|---|
| Sun. Aug. 25 | 8:00a.m. | OLM | Mike & Joyce Dwyer, Frances Uzdella Conklin family, Giovanni Stella |
| | 10:30a.m. | SP | Frank O & Mary Smith |
| Tues. Aug. 27 | 7:00 p.m. | SP | For the People |
| Wed. Aug. 28 | 9:00 a.m. | SP | For the People |
| Thurs. Aug. 29 | 9:00a.m. | OLM | For the People |
| Fri. Aug. 30 | 9:00a.m. | SP | For the People |
| Sat. Aug. 31 | 4:30p.m. | SP | Loman Radabaugh |
| | | | |
| Sun. Sept. 1 | 8:30a.m. | OLM | Joy Short |
| | 10:30a.m. | SP | Ronnie Ruffer, Amy Johns |

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Aug. 30 – Sept. 5 -Fulton Co. Fair
Our Lady of Mercy's Catholic booth
Days - Sept. 3 & Sept. 5 (see bulletin Board for sign up times)
- Aug. 31 – Mass at Fulton Co. Fair
7:30 p.m. – Tedrow Gospel Bldg.
- Sept. 14 -22 – Our Lady of Mercy Novena – Parish will be open 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 19 – Holy Hour 7 p.m.
- Sept. 22 - Our Lady of Mercy Festival begins after Mass
- Sept. 24 – Our Lady of Mercy Feast Day

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for August 18, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (9 envelopes) \$ 466.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS \$ 229.00

BUDGET \$ 1,747.00
Over / (Under) (\$ 1,052.00)

OTHER COLLECTION
St. Vincent de Paul \$ 50.00
Postage Help \$ 20.00
CPC Jar \$ 6.00
Assumption of Mary \$ 50.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other) \$ 821.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

September 1, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Greeters/Gifts | Mike Maginn Family |
| Reader | Ron Baker |
| Servers | Will Maginn |
| Ushers | Ron & Pat Eisel |
| Ministers of the Eucharist | Until further notice |
| Money Counters | Ron Baker Barb Bruggeman Terry Kovar |

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

CHOICE – power of choosing; option

“If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” **Joshua 24:2**

Dear Padre,

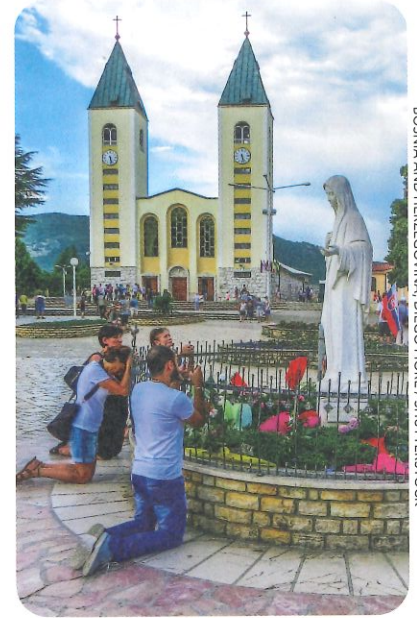
A friend claims that various saints have appeared to her. Is this something that really happens?

Your friend might be experiencing what are called “private” revelations. Many recognized saints experienced visions in which Jesus, Mary, or the disciples spoke to them. These revelations were sometimes the sparks that caused future saints to leave whatever they were doing and follow Jesus in a dynamic way.

Saint Francis of Assisi was a rich young man who had a vision of Christ that radically changed his life. After this private revelation, Francis embraced poverty and devoted himself to the care of the sick. He founded the Franciscans to carry on his mission. An example of recent private revelations are the apparitions at *Medjugorje*. Even though the Church has not formally recognized these revelations, many have discovered a deeper faith because of them.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says this about private revelations: “Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history” (CCC 67).

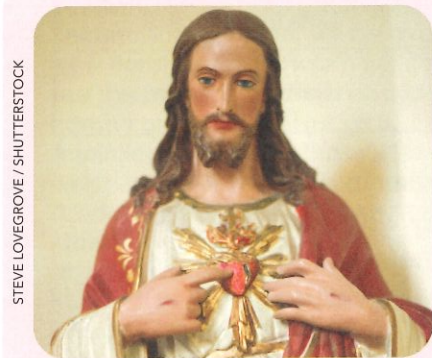
It is important to note whether the private revelation is contrary to the faith or the morals of the Church, and whether a particular revelation brings one closer to God. ●



PRAYING IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY MARY, MEDJUGORJE, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, DIEGO FLORE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| August 26 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Thes 1:1–5, 11–12 Mt 23:13–22 | August 27 <i>St. Monica</i> 2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17 Mt 23:23–26 | August 28 <i>St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> 2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18 Mt 23:27–32 | August 29 <i>Passion of St. John the Baptist</i> 1 Cor 1:1–9 Mk 6:17–29 | August 30 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 1:17–25 Mt 25:1–13 | August 31 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 1:26–31 Mt 25:14–30 | September 1 <i>Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Dt 4:1–2, 6–8 Jas 1:17–18, 21b–22, 27 Mk 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23 |



STEVE LOVEGROVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: “But who do you— you!—say that I am?” Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from the past; He wants to be an important person for you today, for me today.... Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 27, 2023