



## The Body of Christ on Parade

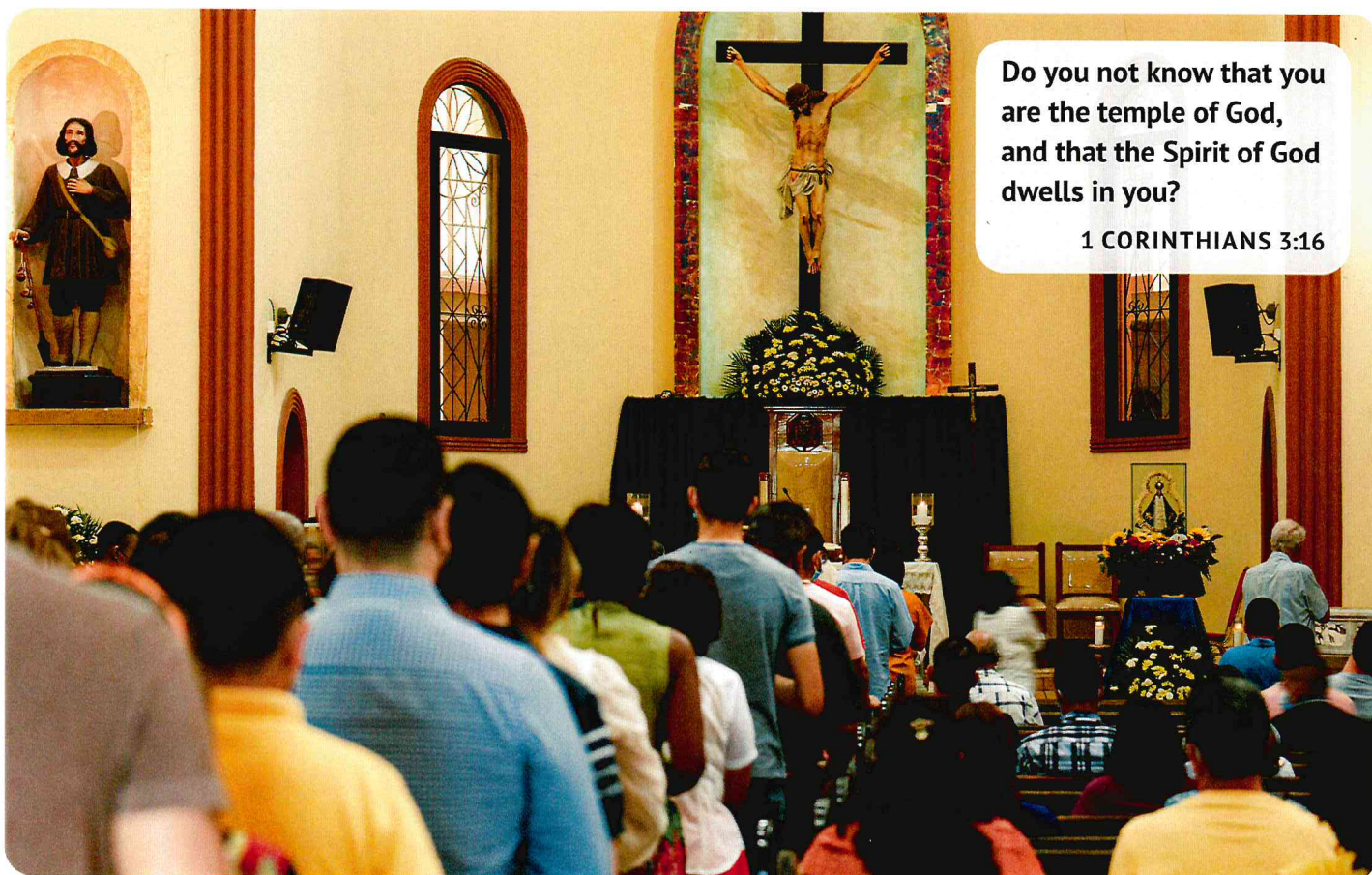
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**S**inging together during the distribution of holy Communion is one way of expressing the reality that we are one in the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. I once was taught to pray quietly during this time. If I'm honest, however, what I find myself doing after I return to my pew is watching others process past as they return from receiving Communion. They are a parade of holiness on the way. They are the longtime parishioners who have been making their way back to their pews in this way for decades—some now using walkers or canes, others with a bit of a slow hobble. There are teenagers, too. Some, from the expressions on their faces, look like their parents made them come, while others look

impressively prayerful. Young parents, too, caring for a new baby in their arms, and another couple holding a two-year-old's hand as he tugs to escape and be free. And middle-aged single people, now halfway through this life's journey. Young couples, as well, those just married or engaged and so obviously in love, but also widows and widowers longing for the love they once knew. All of these are the body of Christ, the very temple of God built upon the foundation that is Christ Jesus, as Paul notes so well. This is why I watch them processing back to their pews. This, too, is prayer. ●

### Reflect

*How do I pray after I've received holy Communion?*



Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

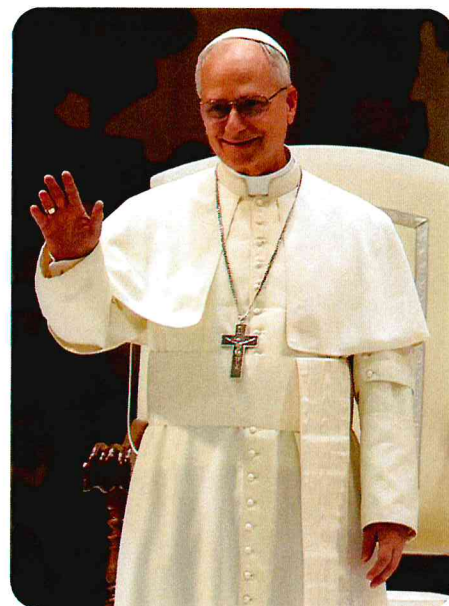


# Dear Padre,

## *Should the pope get involved in American politics?*

No, the pope should not get involved in the politics of any country. However, politics often intersects with religious concerns and particularly gospel values. When this occurs, the Holy Father has a responsibility to preach the gospel and defend the values the gospel teaches, even when it might sound political. He pronounces and teaches the values of the gospel, regardless of what nation or politician might feel confronted or challenged by what he teaches.

What often happens is, when politicians find themselves in conflict with the gospel values the pope is teaching, they choose to say, “The pope has no business in our politics,” instead of listening. Completely understandable, at least from one perspective, but probably also disingenuous from another perspective. Politicians are fully aware of what is being proclaimed and why it is being proclaimed but choose not to listen. That, too, is completely understandable, if regrettable. One has to think only of the scribes and the Pharisees, and more particularly the high priest, who said, “Consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish” (John 11:50). ●



MARCO IACOBUCCI EPF / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 10 <i>St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church</i> Wis 1:1–7 Lk 17:1–6	November 11 <i>St. Martin of Tours, Bishop</i> Wis 2:23–3:9 Lk 17:7–10	November 12 <i>St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr</i> Wis 6:1–11 Lk 17:11–19	November 13 <i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</i> Wis 7:22b–8:1 Lk 17:20–25	November 14 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 13:1–9 Lk 17:26–37	November 15 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 18:14–16; 19:6–9 Lk 18:1–8	November 16 <i>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Mal 3:19–20a 2 Thes 3:7–12 Lk 21:5–19



COTTONBRO / PEXELS

## **A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV**

*Because of the Jewish roots of Christianity, all Christians have a special relationship with Judaism.... The theological dialogue between Christians and Jews remains ever important and close to my heart. Even in these difficult times, marked by conflicts and misunderstandings, it is necessary to continue the momentum of this precious dialogue of ours.*

**ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025**