



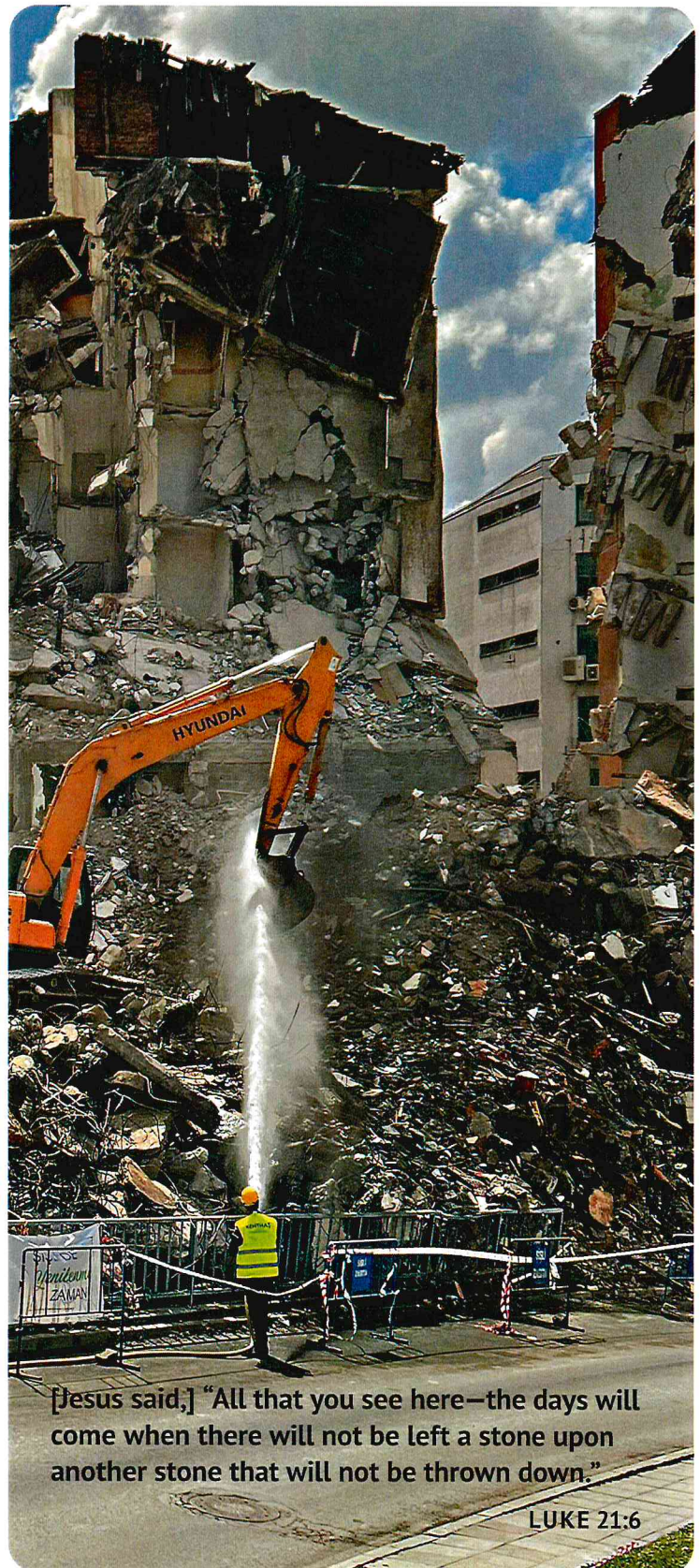
Dismantled and Reassembled

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is the time of year when seasons turn and the rhythm of life changes as days become dismantled and reassembled in new and varied ways. All of this is not unlike the much deeper process continually at play within our hearts. Indeed, the seasons of our individual lives can be dismantled and reassembled—and often more than once in a lifetime. That white-robed prophet of doom who proclaims that the end is near is right. Our lives do collapse in such cosmic ways that not one stone is left upon another. The end may come with a life-robbing illness or the premature death of someone we love. It may take the shape of an unwanted move to a new city or a life collapsed by addiction. It may happen slowly, as life forces us to surrender passion or enthusiasm or the dreams of our youth, like colors faded by sunlight yet never noticed until suddenly we realize the color has all but disappeared. Such transitions can feel as violent as the end of our lives in this world. Indeed, at such times, we may feel that a part of us has died. Yet, if we pay attention, we may discover that we have been refashioned, recreated into something new. It is the story of the divine phoenix rising from the ashes, lived by every human being and understood by every person who lives with faith in the resurrection. ●

Reflect

Have I known the experience of life being dismantled and reassembled into something new?



[Jesus said,] “All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

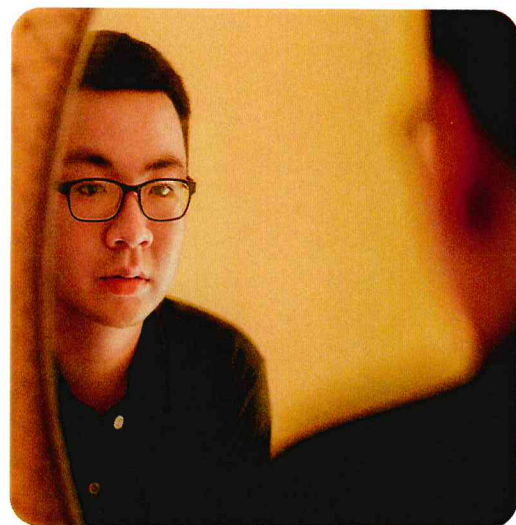
LUKE 21:6

Dear Padre,

Is it a sin to swear if I'm not taking the Lord's name in vain?

As hard as it might be to comprehend, not every bad habit is a sin. Human weakness is sometimes nothing more than human weakness. An exclamation of anger or frustration is often nothing more than an expression of how you feel. When we assign "sin" to every human action or imperfection, we trivialize sin. When we see sin around every corner and in every possible human interaction, we might very well become numb to the presence of real sin when it occurs. The possibility of sin is a wonderful motivator to help us adjust our choices and change our behaviors, but it need not be the only option.

Monitor your speech because you want to be a good person, a mature person, a caring person. That is a virtuous reason and worth the effort. At the same time, remain vigilant, as any good person who desires to be in relationship with the Lord, and choose behaviors that model a good Christian life. Examine your choices and decisions, and when you recognize the presence of sin, be willing to acknowledge that it is sinful, confess it, and then graciously accept the forgiveness and mercy of the Lord. ●



MIN AN / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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
November 17 <i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious</i> 1 Mc 1:10–15, 41–43, 54–57, 62–63 Lk 18:35–43	November 18 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Mc 6:18–31 Lk 19:1–10	November 19 <i>Weekday</i> 2 Mc 7:1, 20–31 Lk 19:11–28	November 20 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Mc 2:15–29 Lk 19:41–44	November 21 <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 1 Mc 4:36–37, 52–59 Lk 19:45–48	November 22 <i>St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr</i> 1 Mc 6:1–13 Lk 20:27–40	November 23 <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i> 2 Sm 5:1–3 Col 1:12–20 Lk 23:35–43



NINA ALZADA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Relations between the Catholic Church and Muslims have been marked by a growing commitment to dialogue and fraternity, fostered by esteem for these our brothers and sisters.... This approach, based on mutual respect and freedom of conscience, is a solid foundation for building bridges between our communities.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025