

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin’s evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn’t written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



JUUSKEALATIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

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
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20



RUDIERNST / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ’s own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior’s prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

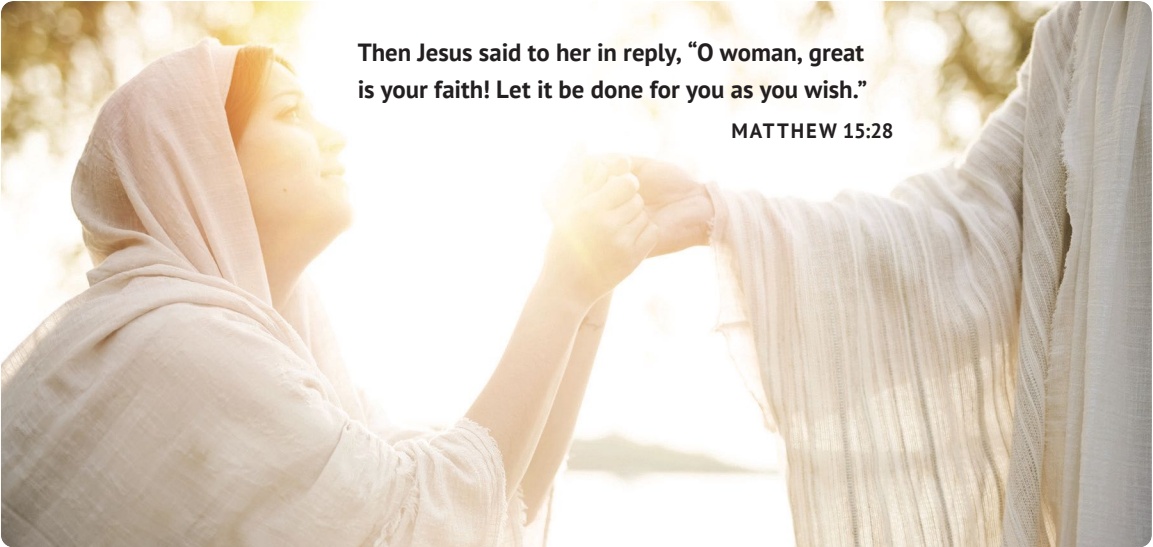
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28



Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
MATTHEW 15:28

Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Telluride, CO

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Facebook: facebook.com/StPatricksTelluride

Please visit our website & Facebook page for the most up-to-date information on Holy Mass times and other important announcements.

Pastoral Information:

Pastor: Rev. Mariusz Wirkowski

Bookkeeper: Cindy Wyszynski

DRE: Katrina Aumiller

Holy Mass & Confession Schedule:

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Tuesday - 7:00 PM; Wednesday – Friday: 8:00 AM

Holy Day of Obligation - Vigil - 5:30 PM and 8:00 AM

Confessions: 30min. prior to each Holy Mass (or by appointment)

Holy Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Nucla.

Sunday: 12:00 Noon

Holy Days of Obligation - 6:00 PM

August 16th, 2026 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Mass Intentions:

Saturday, August 15th

5:30 PM - Missa Pro Populo

Sunday, August 16th

9:00 AM - +Debbie & Steve Ohlmacher

Tuesday, August 18th

7:00 PM - +Linda Corn

Wednesday, August 19th

8:00 AM - +Duane Prais

Thursday, August 20th

8:00 AM - +Dan & Barb Landguth

Friday, August 21st

8:00 AM - Elijah Aumiller

Saturday, August 22nd

5:30 PM - Tom & Sharon Ohlmacher

Sunday, August 23rd

9:00 AM - Missa Pro Populo

*If you would like to have a Holy Mass intention for your loved ones, living or deceased, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 970-728-3387 or place your request in the collection basket near the entrance of the church.
- Suggested donation for each mass is \$10.*

Healing Prayers - Rezos Por Tus Curaciones

Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers...

Kevin Kiernan, Bob Kammer, Cody Couture, Dakota Couture, Eric Block, Judy Donnelly, Mike Napolitano, Mary E. Lynch, Liz Bradley, Care Bear, Carl Carson, Joshua Nault, Phil Couture, Jose Cuaron, Kim Lynch, Allison Myer, Marianne Edward, CarolAnn O'Dea, Juan Esparza, Martha Gagliano, Stanislaw Kowalczyk, Susan Martin Smith

Upcoming Events: *All Are Welcome!*

First Fridays of the month - *Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus* - Holy Mass and Adoration - 8:00 AM.

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM- Holy Adoration. 7:00 PM – Holy Mass

Second Tuesdays of month: 7:30 PM – Men's Group

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM

Women's Group Faith Fun Fellowship – Church

Thursdays: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Mass - Church

First Sunday of the month - Holy Adoration 30 minutes before each Holy Mass.

Each Sunday during Summer- Coffee and donuts after 9:00 AM Holy Mass.

Last Saturday of the month - Bilingual Holy Mass

“So also we, being many, are one body in Christ, and each one is a part, the one of the other.”
Romans 12:5

Parish Announcements:

We would like to welcome all Visitors who are with us celebrating the Holy Mass this weekend.

Please check our ***Parish Website /Calendar*** for updated schedule of events.

Please join us for ***praying the Holy Rosary*** on Sundays before 9:00 AM Holy Mass. It starts at 8:30 AM.

Coffee and donuts every Sunday during summer after 9:00 AM Holy Mass. We need more volunteers to help.

Our next event for St Patrick Anniversary Celebration is our **Parish Mission** with Rev. Chad Ripperger on September 25 - 27, 2026. Sign-up sheet is on the back of the Church, as well as program for our Parish Mission.

Last Week's Collection: \$ 2,061.50

Please visit: stpatrickstelluride.com/donate to offer your financial support.

“For where your treasure is, there also is your heart.”
Mathew 6:21

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Here is a short biography of Reverend Chad Ripperger, who will lead our Anniversary Parish Mission in September.

Fr. Chad Ripperger was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming.

After completing a Bachelor's in Theology and a Bachelor's in Philosophy at the University of San Francisco, he completed a Master's in Philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX. He then attended seminary and completed a Master's in Theology at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut. After joining the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, he was sent to Rome and completed his Doctorate in Philosophy at the University of the Holy Cross.

Upon Ordination, he spent a year in a parish in Omaha, Nebraska and then was assigned to St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska, the diocesan seminary for the Diocese of Lincoln, NE. After teaching 4 years at the diocesan seminary, he taught for 6 years at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton NE, which is the main seminary for the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in the United States. He spent 3 years as a pastor in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Fr. Ripperger is the founder of the Society of the Most Sorrowful Mother, the Doloran Fathers, in the Archdiocese of Denver, and can be reached at dolorans.org.
Viva Cristo Rey!