



What Is God Really Like?

That is a very profound question, asked by children and adults alike. Answers range from the image of an old man in a white robe with a beard; the all-seeing eye on the back of the dollar bill; “the big guy” up there. Such answers seem frivolous when we think about the dynamic force behind the Big Bang from which evolved everything in the billions of galaxies that we know exist. What is such a God really like?

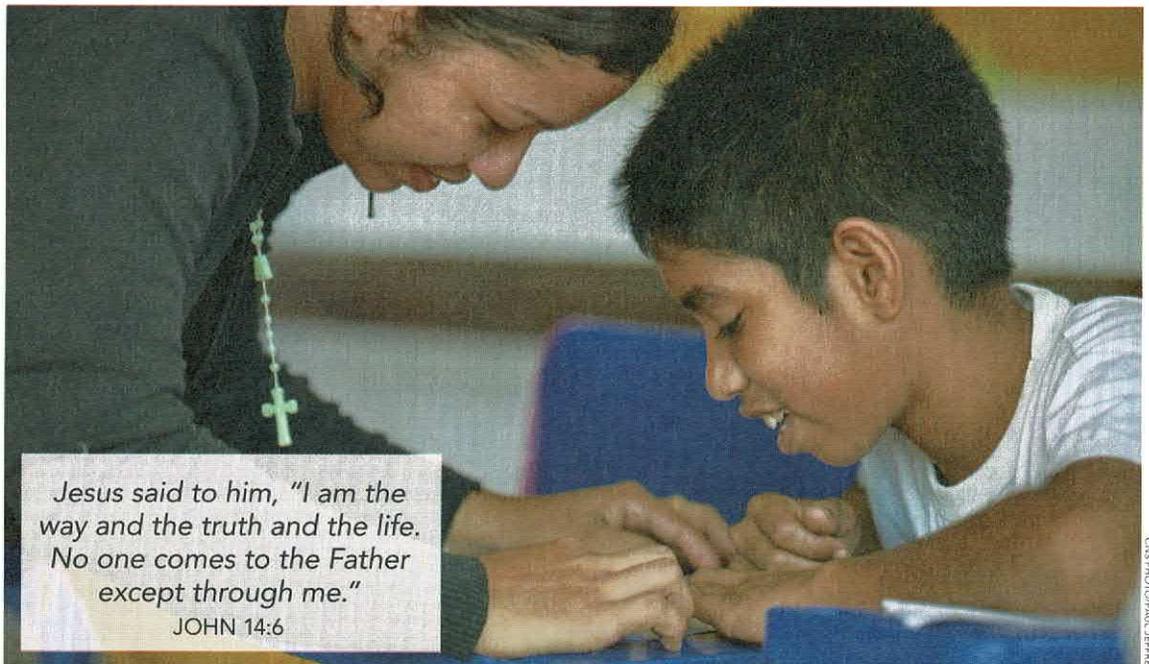
FOR *Reflection*

- ★ How do you think of God?
- ★ Why do you suppose you think of God in that way?

The disciples were probably not thinking of astrophysics when they asked Jesus about God. Their questions flowed from Jesus’ constant reference to God as Father. That title in itself tells us something about God. It tells us that God, like a father, is the source of Jesus’ being and existence.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he is about to return to his Father. He also assures them that they also will have a place with the Father. However, like us, they still are not sure what this Father is like. Jesus responds to their lack of understanding and suggests: “Look at me!” His life is lived for others. He is one who cares for those in need rather than walks past them, who forgives rather than condemns, who endures misunderstanding without retaliating, who tolerates the pettiness of others without being snide. Why is it so hard for us to realize that *this* is what God is really like?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14:6

CHS PHOTO/PAUL JEFFREY

May 10, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading 1

ACTS 6:1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table.

Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.



Responsorial Psalm

PS 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting. Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.



Reading 2

1 PT 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it says in Scripture: Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and a stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall. They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may

announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Alleluia

JN 14:6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

JN 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip?"

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Gospel Reflection

By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human

hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body. As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth.

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building. In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work, and intentions—to God. This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises. By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies.

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up, as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word."

The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. We can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be

troubled, but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father.

His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power, and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew.



Eric and Linda Vore

May 17

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Charles Pennington (Louann Lennon's father), Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Patricia Hernandez-Torres, Frances Christian, loved ones who are ill, and all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Phillip Clark. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ***Amen.***



Sherry Reed

May 15

Blessing for Mother's Day

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you give life and care for your Church.

Bless these women, as we celebrate this day in their honor.

May they be strengthened as Christian mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them with a spirit of profound respect.

May the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, inspire them to live their vocation as Christian mothers and call their children to faith.

Guide and protect them in challenging times and help them to continue to trust in you all the days of their life.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***



Dear Padre,

Are there models I can use to help me better understand what a mother is to do or be?

A great model for mothers is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* uses the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix when speaking of Mary (CCC 969). These titles are important in explaining Mary's special relationship to us, her children. We can also use these titles to show how mothers today can relate to their children and spouses.

Mary encourages us in our efforts to follow Christ. So it is the duty of all mothers to be a guiding presence to their children as they begin to pray and learn to follow the Lord.

As Advocate and Helper, Mary assists us by her own prayer and example. Mary prays for us, and we only have to read Scripture to understand Mary's example of listening to God. Today's mothers share the task of praying for their children and spouses. A mother's example of listening for God can teach her children the importance of seeking God's will.

As Benefactress, Mary is a patron and invites us to receive the graces that only her Son can bestow. In today's family, a mother offers a constant stream of love and encouragement to her spouse and children. She is the patron of love, a refuge from the harshness that life can bring.

As Mediatrix, Mary brings people together to be coworkers with Christ in the work of salvation. Also, a mother is a mediator, a coworker with Christ, helping her children and spouse on their journeys toward salvation. Her family is a little church where heaven and salvation are proclaimed. Happy Mother's Day!

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
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WISCONSIN AND CALIFORNIA: ILLUSTRATION BY CARLO MARATTA/CHRISTOPHER LOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.

—HOMILY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016



Calendar

Monday

MAY 11

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:5–18

Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday

MAY 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 14:19–28

Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday

MAY 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:1–6

Jn 15:1–8

Thursday

MAY 14

St. Matthias,

Apostle

Acts 1:15–17, 20–26

Jn 15:9–17

Friday

MAY 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 15:22–31

Jn 15:12–17

Saturday

MAY 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 16:1–10

Jn 15:18–21

Sunday

MAY 17

Sixth Sunday

of Easter

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17

1 Pt 3:15–18

Jn 14:15–21