



On Becoming Human

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes human beings seem to be **evolving** into more than what we have been. Gradually, we become capable of experiencing more than what we pick up through our five senses. We listen to our intuition; we pay attention to our sixth sense; we discover a spiritual side to our personalities. More and more, we notice people in need. We find ourselves becoming better listeners as people unburden themselves to us. We may be more aware of some stirring deep within ourselves. All such moments may be seen by people of faith as God bringing us to a new place in life.

Just as Isaiah speaks of God doing something new among the Israelites in distant exile, God continues to guide us to becoming more completely human. By his life, passion, and death, Jesus shows us most clearly what sort of person our God is drawing us to be: compassionate and just, generous and merciful, loving in a wasteland of indifference. So, when we hear the story of Jesus not condemning the woman caught in adultery, we may find ourselves becoming conscious of our own need to stop judging, stop condemning. Most of us have not yet evolved to the point of doing what Jesus would do. Instead, we condemn others while overlooking our own culpability. We are still in the process of learning to follow Jesus, to act as he would act, to love as he would love. It is God at work in us. ●

Reflect

***Am I a condemning or a forgiving person?
Do I accept forgiveness when it is offered?***



[Jesus said,] “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.”

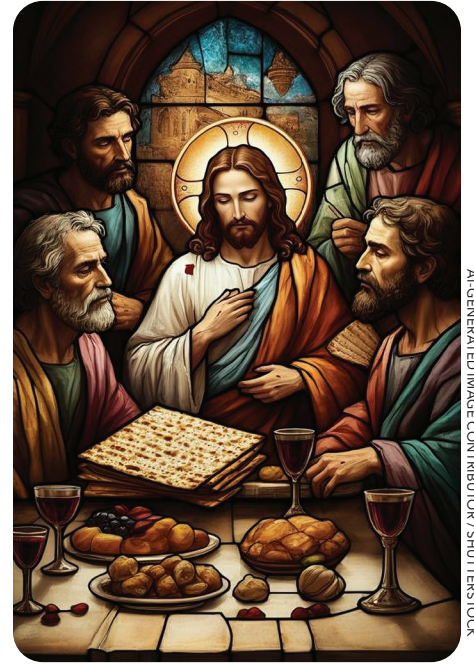
JOHN 8:10–11

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine told me he was looking forward to celebrating the Triduum. What does that word mean?

The word *triduum* is a Latin word meaning “three days.” In this context, it refers to the paschal Triduum: the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, when we celebrate Christianity’s most sacred events—the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The official beginning of the paschal Triduum takes place the evening of Holy Thursday, when we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This day is also referred to as Maundy Thursday, because Jesus gives a command (*mandatum*) to his followers to be an example of love and service to others. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends in stillness as the tabernacle is emptied, and the altar is stripped bare. The priests, ministers, and congregation then exit in silence. Good Friday is a day of somber quiet as we relive the passion and death of Jesus. The service centers on the solemn veneration of the cross. Holy Saturday is characterized by a spirit of waiting and quiet anticipation until the festive Easter Vigil, celebrated in the evening, when the Church comes alive with the new Light of Christ and catechumens are joyfully received into the eucharistic community. These are the Christian high holy days. ●



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We can always run the risk of...having [Jesus’] name on our lips but denying him by the way that we live.... How, then, can we prove whether or not we are true disciples of the Master? We do so by the way we regard our neighbor and the way we regard ourselves.



FAUXELS / PEXELS

HOMILY, MALTA, APRIL 3, 2022

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Monday

April 7
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30,
33–62 or 13:41c–62
Jn 8:12–20

Tuesday

April 8
Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4–9
Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday

April 9
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95
Jn 8:31–42

Thursday

April 10
Lenten Weekday
Gn 17:3–9
Jn 8:51–59

Friday

April 11
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10–13
Jn 10:31–42

Saturday

April 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21–28
Jn 11:45–56

Sunday

April 13
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Lk 19:28–40
Is 50:4–7
Phil 2:6–11
Lk 22:14–23:56 or
23:1–49