



## From Anger to Peace


FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**t this point in history, we are a nation filled with much anger. Given all that is taking place, one might conclude that it comes from a fear of losing control—fears due to the waves of immigrants seeking asylum, to a changing economy, to political alliances, to artificial intelligence, resulting in our inability to sort truth from untruth. Fears also due to strained relationships with non-Western nations, to urban violence and the abundance of guns, to the conflict between pro-life and pro-choice allegiances, and, for some, to what is perceived as conflicted thinking within the Catholic Church. There is no shortage of what may be fueling our anger. How can faith help us respond in a life-giving way?

Saint John writes that “whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith” (1 John 5:4). This is not to say that we can easily make the world respond in ways we want, but rather that the world has no power over the person who places all trust in God’s presence among us. It was the risen Lord who once brought peace to the disciples behind doors locked out of fear. Might not our faith help us who have locked ourselves behind doors of mistrust and anger? If only we allow ourselves to trust God. Yet, we should not simply shrug off all cares or involvement in life; on the contrary, with faith and trust, we recognize we are not the only players in shaping the events of the world. ●

### Reflect

***Do I bring my faith to the news of the day;  
do I pray for peace?***



[Jesus] said to [the disciples] again,  
“Peace be with you. As the Father  
has sent me, so I send you.”  
And when he had said this, he  
breathed on them and said to them,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

JOHN 20:21–22



# Dear Padre,

*How do we maintain our faith in a world that shames religion and creates doubt in our beliefs?*

I would respond to your question with one of my own: “When has it ever been different?” In what place has there been universal praise and acceptance of the practices of faith and belief? When has there been a time when there is no doubt? This is a good question for this Sunday, when we hear about St. Thomas, the doubting disciple.

Many years ago, unanimity might have been understood as the norm in a tight-knit neighborhood community of people with the same experience and belief. However, in the wide world today that is so connected and disconnected at the same time, sameness and uniformity cannot be assumed. It may cause unease, or even fear, to learn that someone disagrees with you, perhaps even someone you love, but it should no longer be a surprise or considered out of the ordinary.

Doubt can help a person grow in faith and belief. Even though doubt is challenging, it is often a necessary experience in order to be strengthened and to persevere. Doubt is not something that should cause us to quiver in fear, but rather to rejoice in hope, in the confidence that what we believe is worth living and has something to teach us. ●



AARON BURDEN / UNSPLASH

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
Easter Weekday	St. Catherine	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Athanasius,	Sts. Philip and	Third Sunday
Acts 4:23–31	of Siena, Virgin	Acts 5:17–26	Acts 5:27–33	Bishop and	James, Apostles	Acts 5:27–32,
Jn 3:1–8	and Doctor of	Jn 3:16–21	Jn 3:31–36	Doctor of the	1 Cor 15:1–8	40b–41
	the Church			Church	Jn 14:6–14	Rv 5:11–14
	Acts 4:32–37			Acts 5:34–42		Jn 21:1–19 or
	Jn 3:7b–15			Jn 6:1–15		21:1–14



ANNETNAVI / PEXELS

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Let us ask ourselves: at home, in my family, at work, in my community, do I foster fellowship, am I a weaver of reconciliation? Do I commit myself to defusing conflict, to bringing forgiveness in place of hatred, and peace in place of resentment? Do I avoid hurting others by not gossiping, which always kills?*

**HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022**