

## Live in Love

**N**ow that's an exhortation that should be easy to follow, because everyone wants to love and to be loved. However, it's not as easy as it appears. Today's second reading contains a list of offenses against love: "bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling" (Ephesians 4:31). Even those we should love the most can so annoy us that we lose control and might respond with bitterness or shouting. Furthermore, this exhortation is difficult because we are told to refrain from such anger toward people we don't even know or those we don't like.

We are to show kindness toward everyone. How can we ever do this? We might not have the courage or the desire. We are, after all, just weak human beings. True, but we have been "sealed for the day of redemption" with the "holy Spirit of God" (Ephesians 4:30). For the Jewish people, the Spirit of God referred to the dynamic power of God at work in the world. This means that the dynamic power of God is with us to transform us from bitter, angry people to be "imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

Because this *is* the case, because this transforming power *is* available to us, why don't we allow it to transform us and, in so doing, transform our world? Why is the world in such disarray? Why is there so much violence, oppression, and despair? Why are the most vulnerable among us often preyed upon? If we so desperately want to give and receive love, then why don't we?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- \* What keeps you from being a loving person?
- \* What can you do about this?

*Be kind to one another, compassionate,  
forgiving one another  
as God has forgiven you in Christ.*

EPHESIANS 4:32



# Dear Padre,

**When I hear “Oh my God,” should I tell the person he or she is breaking a commandment? When I see people at Mass in revealing or disrespectful clothing, should I say something?**

**W**hen I was young, I went to a baseball game with my parents. While we were in line, a man cursed using Jesus’ name. My mother said, “Oh, I don’t think Jesus is playing today.” She made her point, but I doubt she changed his future behavior.



MY OCEAN PRODUCTION / SHUTTERSTOCK

I don’t think we’re obliged to evangelize by calling out someone who is using God’s name in vain. I hear someone cursing many times in public. Depending on the situation, I might say something simple like, “You know, there are children here.” Sometimes people apologize and stop; other times they tell me to mind my own business, using even more choice words, at which point I walk away. But we’re under no obligation to do this, and always be very careful about confronting strangers about anything.

As for appropriate dress for Mass, this is a problem in many parishes. I wouldn’t say anything to the person wearing the disrespectful or revealing clothing.

Instead, ask your pastor whether your parish or diocese has a dress code. If they do, ask him why it’s not being enforced. If there is no dress code, ask him if you can form a committee to establish one.

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**Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[Christ] took our names upon himself, to the very end, including the evil that is within us....Anyone, in whatever situation..., can invoke the holy name of the Lord, who is faithful and merciful Love. God will never say no to a heart that invokes him sincerely.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, AUGUST 22, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

AUGUST 9

*Weekday*

Dt 10:12–22

Mt 17:22–27

### Tuesday

AUGUST 10

*St. Lawrence,*

*Deacon and Martyr*

2 Cor 9:6–10

Jn 12:24–26

### Wednesday

AUGUST 11

*St. Clare, Virgin*

Dt 34:1–12

Mt 18:15–20

### Thursday

AUGUST 12

*Weekday*

Jos 3:7–10a,

11, 13–17

Mt 18:21–19:1

### Friday

AUGUST 13

*Weekday*

Jos 24:1–13

Mt 19:3–12

### Saturday

AUGUST 14

*St. Maximilian Kolbe,*

*Priest and Martyr*

Jos 24:14–29

Mt 19:13–15

### Sunday

AUGUST 15

*The Assumption  
of the*

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

Rv 11:19a;

12:1–6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20–27

Lk 1:39–56