

Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

Dear Family:

Read the reflection about remaining anchored in the Faith, and discuss the “Ponder and Pray” questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the “Live It” section, and have fun with the family activities.

Anchored Faith

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we are reminded of the necessity of anchoring our faith in the fullness of God’s Revelation. In the Gospel, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, not as we imagine it but as God reveals it. This promise is vital in a culture increasingly inclined to be “spiritual but not religious,” in which people often shape their beliefs to their personal preferences.

The challenge of remaining faithful during this cultural shift is significant. Pew research reveals that many young Catholics stop practicing their faith as they transition into adulthood. This is known as the rise of the “nones”—those who claim no religious affiliation. More than half of these “nones” leave because of dissatisfaction with Church teachings on things like birth control, abortion,

“ I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. ”

—John 14:25–26



Jesus Christ Walking with a Lamb in a Meadow, AI generated (Adobe Stock)

and homosexuality.* They prefer a version of God without the Church, citing fewer demands, less baggage, and the avoidance of labels. Yet Jesus calls us not only to a personal relationship with him but also to the community and teachings of the Church.

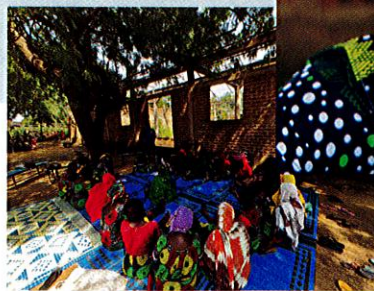
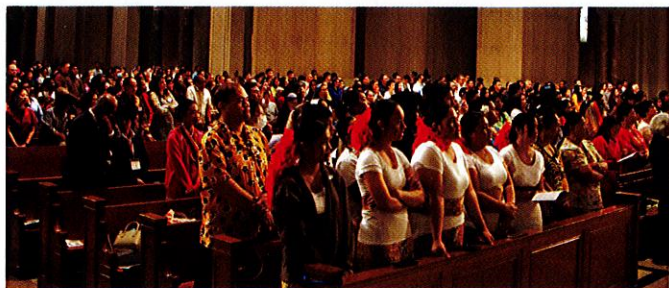
* “Leaving Catholicism,” *Pew Research Center*, April 27, 2009, pewresearch.org/.

Through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium, God provides the means for us to know him fully. In a world of individualism and confusion, this triad remains a beacon, guiding us not to a God of our own making but to the God who made us, calls us, and sustains us in truth.

REVEAL Christ's LOVE

For people living in developing countries around the world, lack of access to traditional financial services keeps them from providing for their material needs. A Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program has created Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) to address this lack by helping poor communities to pool savings, which then can be lent to SILC members to build or grow businesses at low cost. In Chad, Claudine, a mother of six, uses loans from her local SILC to buy large, lower-cost quantities of the ingredients she needs to make the beignets she sells at market. Before the SILC was established, Claudine was barely able to sell enough beignets to live. But now these cost savings allow her to care for her family and pay school fees.

Your support for The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps CRS address the needs of people in developing countries through innovative solutions that strengthen communities and equip them with resources and skills to prosper—and you also support five other Catholic organizations' outreach to other vulnerable people.



Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . .

In the United States

Reveal Christ's love by welcoming suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Reveal Christ's love through legal aid to struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reveal Christ's love in ministry to people on the margins . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

Reveal Christ's love to hungry mothers and children in Chad through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, the official overseas relief agency of the bishops of the United States.

Reveal Christ's love by working for peace . . . through the public policy and education and outreach work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace***.

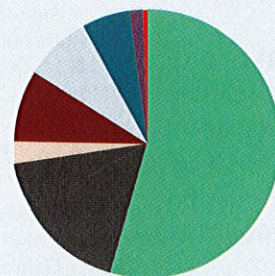
Reveal Christ's love to the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

* In June 2024, the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development was renamed the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection 2023

Grants	
■	Catholic Relief Services
■	USCCB Migration & Refugee Services
■	USCCB Cultural Diversity in the Church*
■	USCCB Justice, Peace and Human Development†
■	CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.)
■	Holy Father's Relief Fund
Administration	
■	Promotion & Education Costs
■	Administrative Expenses

Amount	Percentage
\$6,849,470	52.03%
\$2,031,216	15.43%
\$1,775,187	13.49%
\$801,732	6.09%
\$787,866	5.99%
\$500,000	3.80%



* The USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church includes Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (\$1,150,833) and Asian and Pacific Island Affairs (\$624,354).

† The USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development includes International Justice and Peace (\$653,054) and education activities (\$148,678). In June 2024, the Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development was renamed the USCCB Secretariat of Justice and Peace.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

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