

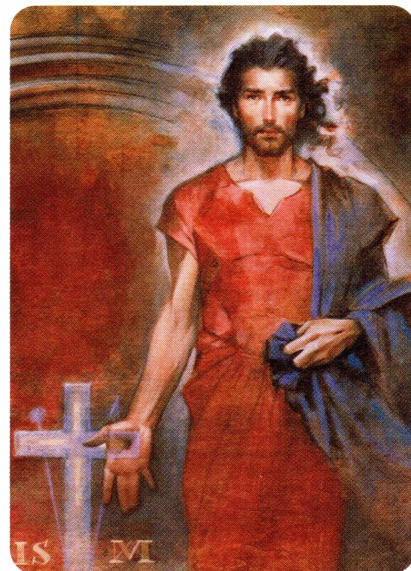
Dear Padre,

Does God have a plan for each of us?

We collaborate with God through continual prayer and discernment in planning out our best path of life. This path allows us to fulfill God's ultimate plan—namely, to find meaning in the life he gave us, enjoy his friendship while on earth, and spend eternal life with him in heaven.

God doesn't force us to live out our existence in some programmed, robotic way according to a predestined plan or inevitable fate over which we have no control. Rather, we're free and responsible for our own actions.

Moreover, God's plan for each of us is to experience his profound love and love him in return. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). As the supreme sign of God's love, his plan of salvation from the beginning of time was to send us his only begotten Son. "Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains...in his first sermon on Pentecost: 'This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599). "By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part" (CCC 604). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Weekday	Weekday	St. Thomas, Apostle	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 2:6–10, 13–16	Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12	Eph 2:19–22	Am 7:10–17	Am 8:4–6, 9–12	Am 9:11–15	Ez 2:2–5
Mt 8:18–22	Mt 8:23–27	Jn 20:24–29	Mt 9:1–8	Mt 9:9–13	Mt 9:14–17	2 Cor 12:7–10
						Mk 6:1–6a

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let Jesus look at and heal your heart.... And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step.... Love alone heals life.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021