

# Dear Padre,

## *Does praying to the saints really do any good?*

Prayer can connect us, however mysteriously, to those who have gone before us in faith. If prayer can change people, opening them to God's grace and healing, then surely the saints and our deceased loved ones can facilitate similar healing from their communion at God's right hand. Such prayer also calls us, however subtly, to the central mystery that we also shall one day die and be a part of that communion. Thus, even as we seek the intercession of the saints for our earthly cares, such prayer reminds us that the fire of our own lives is being consumed daily, and that each of us will inevitably receive a call to death when it becomes God's will.

When Sr. Thea Bowman (1937–1990)—brilliant, creative, beautiful, and passionately alive—was diagnosed with cancer, she wondered how to pray. “I didn't know if I should pray for healing or death. Then, I found peace in praying for what my folks call ‘God's perfect will.’ As it evolved, my prayer became ‘Lord, let me live until I die.’ By that I mean I want to live, love, and serve fully until death comes. If that prayer is answered, I am able to truly live until I die. How long really doesn't matter.” ●

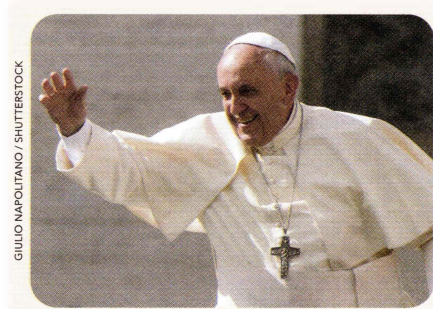
**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## **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 15 <i>St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 1:10–17 Mt 10:34–11:1	July 16 <i>Weekday</i> Is 7:1–9 Mt 11:20–24	July 17 <i>Weekday</i> Is 10:5–7, 13b–16 Mt 11:25–27	July 18 <i>Weekday</i> Is 26:7–9, 12, 16–19 Mt 11:28–30	July 19 <i>Weekday</i> Is 38:1–6, 21–22, 7–8 Mt 12:1–8	July 20 <i>Weekday</i> Mi 2:1–5 Mt 12:14–21	July 21 <i>Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Jer 23:1–6 Eph 2:13–18 Mk 6:30–34



## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*Jesus...makes [the disciples] see that the Christian journey is simply about changing hearts. One's own heart first all.... It is about learning to live differently, under a different law, with different rules. It is about turning from the path of selfishness, conflict, division, and superiority, and taking instead the path of life, generosity and love.*

**HOMILY, ÑU GUAZÚ, ASUNCIÓN (PARAGUAY), JULY 12, 2015**