

# Dear Padre,

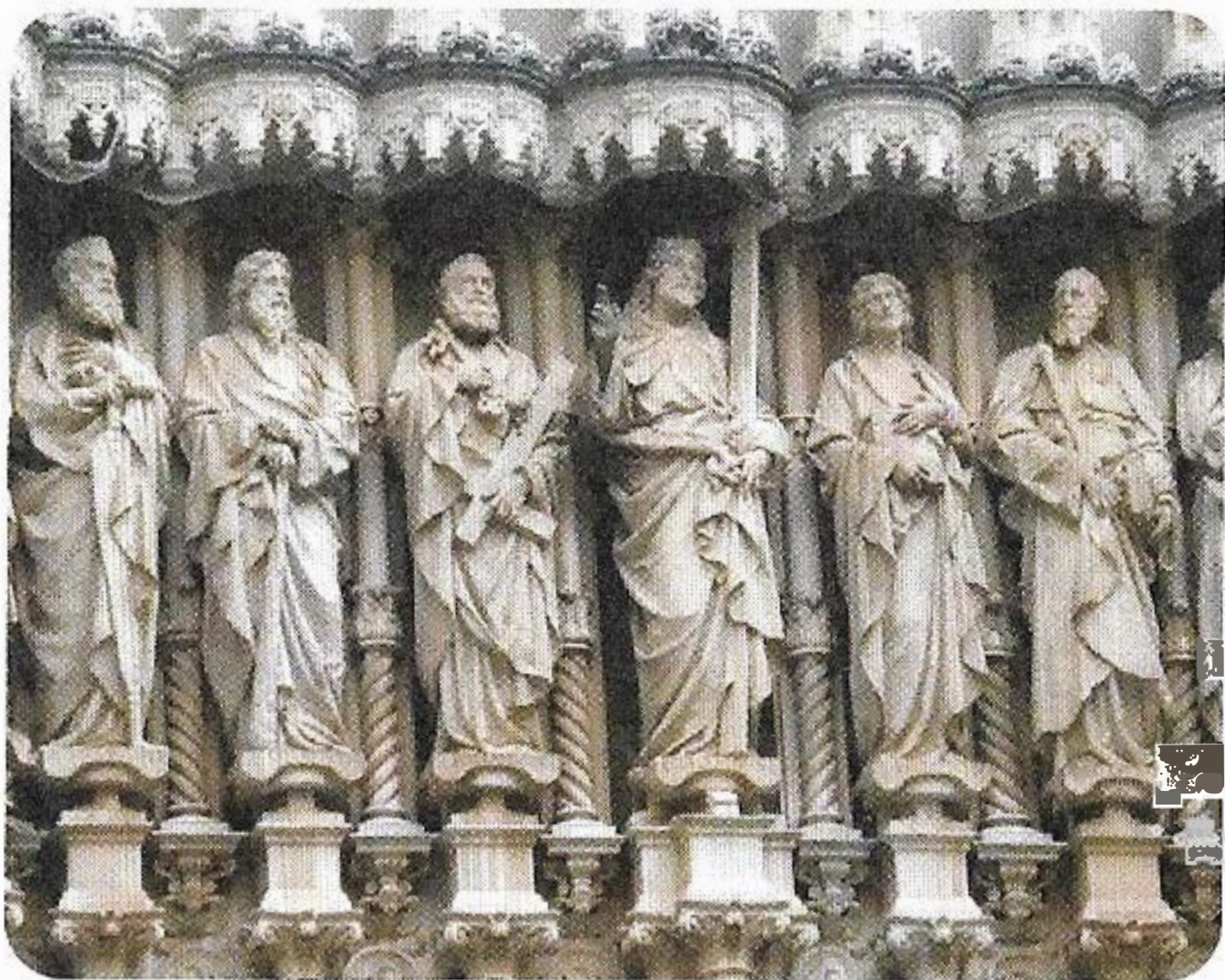
## Are Catholic statues the same as “graven images”?

God forbade the making of idols, images of false gods (Exodus 20:4–5). But God did not forbid the making of all images. Images of cherubim were placed on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37:7–9), and the Book of Numbers tells how God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole as a sign of healing (Numbers 21:7–9).

Not only is the making of images or representations of people not forbidden by God, it is so common that we take it for granted. People keep photographs of those they love. In the same way, we Catholics love the saints as family members who have gone before us, and we keep images of them in our homes and churches.

Catholics do not worship the saints; we worship and adore God alone. But we do honor the saints, remembering their holy lives as we try to imitate them. There is nothing unusual about keeping statues and paintings in prominent places. Many cities display statues of leaders and important citizens. If we are given only secular models to imitate, we will be denied models who can guide us to Jesus and to eternal life. Images of the saints are reminders of God’s grace and goodness fleshed out in the lives of people very much like us. ●

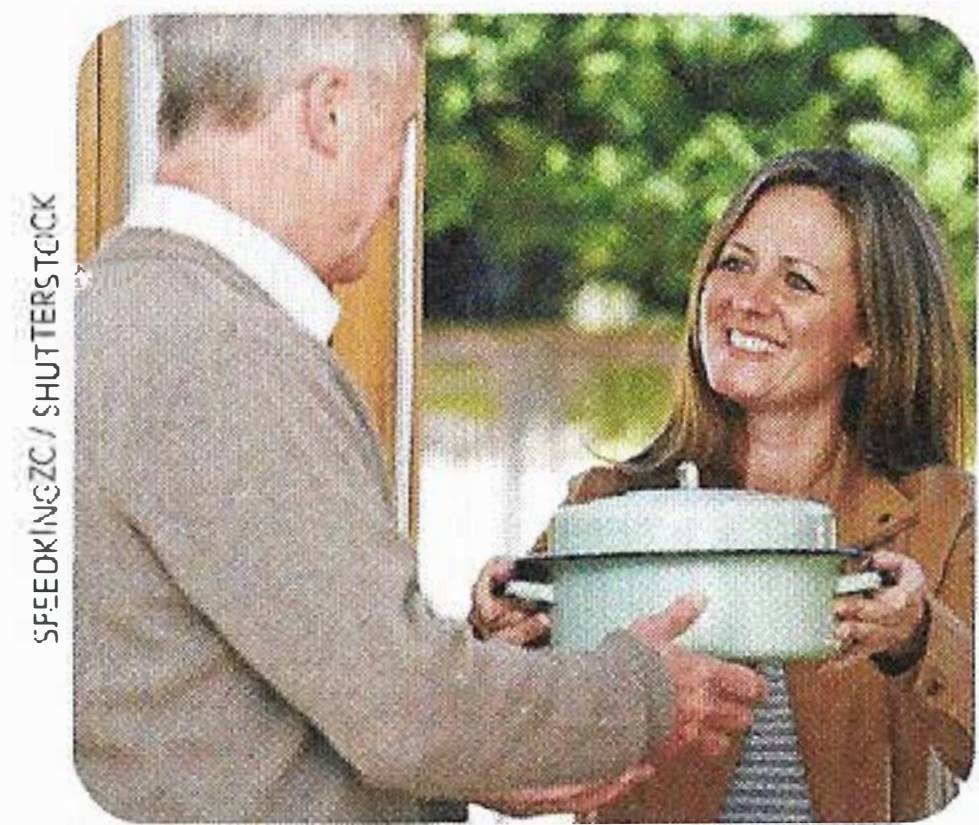
The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



## 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*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 5	August 6	August 7	August 8	August 9	August 10	August 11
Weekday	Transfiguration	Weekday	St. Dominic,	Weekday	St. Lawrence,	Nineteenth
Jer 28:1–17	of the Lord	Jer 31:1–7	Priest	Na 2:1, 3;	Deacon and	Sunday in
Mt 14:13–21	Dn 7:9–10,	Mt 15:21–28	Jer 31:31–34	3:1–3, 6–7	Martyr	Ordinary Time
	13–14		Mt 16:13–23	Mt 16:24–28	2 Cor 9:6–10	1 Kgs 19:4–8
	2 Pt 1:16–19				Jn 12:24–26	Eph 4:30–5:2
	Mk 9:2–10					Jn 6:41–51



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*When we seek first and foremost the satisfaction of our needs, we risk using people and exploiting situations for our own ends.... Let us welcome Jesus as the bread of life and...learn to love each other.... Love given freely and without calculation, without using people, freely, with generosity, with magnanimity.*

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 1, 2021