

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin’s evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn’t written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●



JUUSKEALATIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

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
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church	St. Pius X, Pope	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 24:15–23	Ez 28:1–10	Ez 34:1–11	Ez 36:23–28	Ez 37:1–14	Ez 43:1–7ab	Is 22:19–23
Mt 19:16–22	Mt 19:23–30	Mt 20:1–16	Mt 22:1–14	Mt 22:34–40	Mt 23:1–12	Rom 11:33–36
						Mt 16:13–20



RUDIERNST / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ’s own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior’s prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7 / Romans 11:13–15, 29–32 / Matthew 15:21–28



Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

MATTHEW 15:28

Still Redeemable?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Not once, not twice, but three times in today’s gospel, Jesus dismisses the Canaanite woman who comes to him for help. First, he refuses to speak to her. Then, he says he has come only for “the lost sheep” of Israel. Finally, he compares her to a dog. In ancient Judaism, dogs were considered unclean animals, and to call someone a dog was a harsh insult. How does it feel to hear Jesus speak to a woman in this way? We must admit that it does not sound like the Jesus we know and love.

With the trajectory of the encounter headed downhill (and picking up speed), it is hard to imagine that anything could be done at this point to change the outcome. If I were in her situation, I would have been so offended after the third dismissal that I would have simply slammed the door on the way out. But, remarkably, the story takes a 90-degree turn when the Canaanite woman enters into a verbal joust with Jesus and jolts him into taking her seriously. Very seriously. Jesus praises her for her faith.

“Faith in what?” one might ask. Perhaps faith that this relationship could still turn around. Faith that the antagonistic plotline of history between Jews and Canaanites could still change. Faith that Jesus could still be something other than a dismissive man. Faith that an ignored voice might still be worth hearing. Do we have the praiseworthy faith of the Canaanite woman? Do we still believe that troublesome interactions can yet be redeemed? ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

How strong is my faith? Strong enough to be persistent?



**Sacred Hearts of Jesus &
Mary at Waimea**

St. Theresa Parish

Established January 21, 1941
P.O. Box 159, Kekaha, HI 96752



St. Theresa School at Kekaha



Vision / Mission Statement
*To make St. Theresa Parish
a dynamic Christian community
of worship & service*

*O God,
let all the nations praise you!*

Parish Directory

Clergy



Reverend Edwin D. Conselva, MS,
Pastor 808-337-1784
Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018
Deacon Jim Bostick, retired 808-337-1124

Parish Office

Mass Intentions / Hospital or Homebound
Communion / Weddings / Marriage
Convalidations / Baptisms / Funerals
Dee Young, Parish Secretary 808-337-1548
M-F, 8am-noon sttheresac@yahoo.com

PPC Raynette Newall
Worship / HI Catholic Herald parish articles
Chantal Duarte 808-634-0403

Bulletin / Website Betsy Jones 907-347-6618

Evangelization Commission

Director of Religious Education
Sr. Gloria Camitan, O.P. 808-337-1548

OCIA Deacon Ron Jones 907-978-4018

Youth Coordinators
Blu & Rena Ulanday 808-635-2701

Social Services Commission

Respect Life call parish office 808-337-1548
Agency on Elderly Affairs 808-241-4470

St. Theresa School

Wendy Souza, Principal
808-337-1351 sttheresakauai.com
Office hours M-F, 7:30am-3pm
HCH school articles

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Aug 16, 2026

**For the gifts and the call of
God are irrevocable.**

Romans 11:29

God has a special mission
in mind for each of us. He
has given us the gifts we
need to accomplish that
mission.

We are called to be good
stewards by using those
gifts to do the work
that He has planned for
each of us.

*If we deny our gifts or fail
to use them as God calls us
to use them, then some
part of His work will be left
undone.*

Each of us has a part in
God's salvation plan.

~Archdiocese of St. Louis



St. Theresa Church

8343 Kaumualii Hwy
Kekaha HI 96752

Sat 5pm Vigil Mass

Sun 7:45am Rosary

8:30am Mass

Mon-Thu 6:30am Mass

Fri 8:10am School Mass

Weekday Masses subject to change.

Wed 6pm Rosary to Our Lady
of Fatima & Novena to
OLPH

First Friday Holy Hour 6-7pm

with Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament &
Benediction

Confessions 4:30pm Saturday

(or call the parish office
for an appointment)



Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church

9496 Kaumualii Hwy
Waimea HI 96796

Sun 7am Mass

First Saturday Devotion to
the BVM 8-9am

kekahacatholic.com

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Offerings

Kekaha \$ 1,819

Waimea 946

Other Donations

Candles	\$ 5
Catholic Charities Hawaii	175
Cross We Share	200
Donations	1,200
Fundraiser	1,675
Funerals	400
Maintenance Fund	50
Mass Intentions	30
Novena	100
Religious Education	40
St. Theresa Choir	100

*Mahalo for being as generous
as your means allow. God bless you! ☩*

Special collection THIS weekend for the
Maintenance Fund. Mahalo!

**SAVE THE DATES! 80th Anniversary
of STS and 85th Anniversary of STC.**

OCTOBER 2 – OCTOBER 4, 2026

RE registration forms are available
on the STC usher's table.
Classes begin Sep 24 at 6pm at STS.

OCIA classes begin this fall for adults
interested in becoming Catholic.
Contact Deacon Ron at 907.978.4018.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon Aug 17	weekly Bible Study at Dcn Ron's home, 4526B Alae Rd, 6-7:30pm. All are welcome.
Thursdays	Choir practice 4:30-6pm at STC
Thu Aug 20	STS Mass of the Holy Spirit 9am at STC (noon dismissal)
Fri Aug 21	Statehood Day – no school; church & school offices closed



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HAWAII
Bicentennial 1827-2027

The Catholic Church in Hawai'i is marking
200 years since the first missionaries
arrived on these shores, and
catholichawaii200.org is the one-stop
place for everything connected to the
anniversary year.

What it honors - 200 years of impact

Faith lived across generations —
in parishes, schools, service,
and spiritual formation.

STS ANNUAL

Regal Food Sale

A fundraiser for education

Vienna Cinnamon Bread (1.2 lb)
Chocolate Chip Cookies (12 oz)
Banana Mac Nut Loaf Cake (15 oz)
Cornflake Cookies (12 oz bag)

Ticket Sale August 13-31, 2026

Product Pick Up September 19,
STS Campus

\$12 per product.

Thank you!

**A delicious
way to support
Catholic
education on
Kauai!**

sttheresakauai.com

checks may be made out to St. Theresa School