



Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time – 16 February 2025

## JD VANCE vs. THE VATICAN



En route to Marseille, France, to headline a September 2023 migration conference, Pope Francis was speaking to reporters when he offered unsolicited praise for El Paso Bishop Mark Seitz and his strong support of migrants and refugees. It wasn't the first time he had singled out the Texas border bishop. "I do not know if he is conservative, or if he is progressive, if he is of the right or of the left, but he is a good pastor," remarked the pope in a

December 2022 interview. Francis's knowledge is informed by regular conversations he has with U.S. prelates who are frequent visitors to Rome and by meetings he convenes with groups like the West/Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation who have met with the pope the last three years for free-ranging conversations on the situation of migrants and U.S. political life. And to top it off, according to his public calendar, Francis meets every Saturday morning with Chicago-born Cardinal Robert Prevost, who advises the pope on bishops' appointments around the world. Surely, he receives ample information from the U.S. from these figures. Given this context, it's not exactly surprising that following the election of a U.S. president who has pledged to deport millions of undocumented migrants, the pope might have a few things to say. After all, this is a pontiff who chose to visit the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa on his very first trip outside of Rome following his election as pope to pay tribute to the lives of migrants lost at sea and spotlight the "globalization of indifference" towards their plight. So this week, on Feb. 11, when the Vatican published a letter from the pope to U.S. bishops warning that Trump's mass deportations plans would "end badly" and rejecting the administration's characterization of migrants as criminals, no one should have been shocked by Francis' concerns. According to one senior Vatican official who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the pope has closely followed the response of U.S. prelates to Trump's attacks on migrants and he expects them to offer a united front in opposing any mass deportation efforts. What is novel about this latest papal correspondence, however, is the manner in which the pope directly responded to a recent effort by Vice President JD Vance to use Catholic theology to justify the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Vance, who converted to Catholicism in 2019, invoked the ancient theological concept of *ordo amoris* to argue in a Fox News interview and later on social media platform X that "You love your family, and then you love your neighbor, and then you love your community, and then you love your fellow citizens in your own country. And then after that, you can focus and prioritize the rest of the world." The pope didn't buy it. "Christian love is not a concentric expansion of interests that little by little extend to other persons and groups," Francis wrote in his letter to U.S. bishops. "The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the 'Good Samaritan' that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception." Catholic theologian Massimo Faggioli told me "it's very shocking to see the pope disavowing what a Catholic vice president has said in an interview." "Now Pope Francis is basically asking U.S. Catholics to remember what America is about. And that's an interesting twist of history." The eminent Italian church historian Alberto Melloni told me that Francis, in writing this letter to the American bishops, is using a similar tool to Pope Pius XI, when he condemned the Action Française in the 1920s – a nationalist French political movement buttressed by many of the country's Catholics. While Francis – and recent popes – have penned letters addressed to particular bishops' conferences and countries, the scope of those letters have been markedly different. In 2018, Francis wrote to the Chilean bishops to address the mounting clergy abuse crisis in that country and, in 2024, Francis wrote to Catholics in Nicaragua to express his closeness as they endured religious persecution. Yet in his latest letter, the pope is expressly concerned with what it means to be Catholic. According to Faggioli, it is an effort to safeguard that identity and ensure that the church's theology isn't perverted. "The pope has ramped up the confrontation," he said. "And here we have two moral views of the world that are clearly colliding." (full article [here](#))

Courtesy Christopher White – National Catholic Reporter

## Remembered this Weekend

Bridie Delaney (11th A)  
Michael Larkin, Shay Larkin  
Paddy & Chloe O'Donnell  
Thomas, Mary & Kiara Carroll  
Mary Ennis, Thomas Reilly  
Sylvia Holmes (17th A)  
Kieran Swords (10th A)  
Brigid Maher (Rec Deceased)



## Support for Birth Mothers

Information and Support for Birth Mothers whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at [www.birthinginfo.ie](http://www.birthinginfo.ie) or by calling the relevant section of Tusla at 0818 445500



## Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. Visit [www.hospicefoundation.ie](http://www.hospicefoundation.ie) for more information.



## Jubilee of Youth

Dublin 01 August – 03 August. As the numbers able to travel to Rome are limited, the hope is for a simultaneous event 'Rome @ Home' to take place in Dublin from August 1st to 3rd for the youth of the Diocese. This can only happen if there is a team to make it happen. If you are interested in being part of the team to host this event and want to know more, please sign up using this [link](#) for the information session on February 17th at 7:30 pm via Zoom. This session will be repeated.

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## 2025 Pilgrimage to Lourdes

4th to 9th September 2025, led by Archbishop Farrell. More info [info@joewalshstours.ie](http://info@joewalshstours.ie) or phone Dublin: 01 241 0800

## 6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Penitential Rite

Our God is a God of blessings. As we begin our celebration let us call to mind God's goodness to us.

You make us poor in spirit. Lord have mercy

You make us merciful. Christ have mercy

You make us thirst for justice and peace. Lord have mercy

May the God of Blessings fill us with compassion, in the face of hatred and hardness of heart. May he forgive us our sin so we may inherit the kingdom of God. Amen

### Jeremiah 17:5-8

'The Lord says this: 'A curse on the person who puts their trust in humankind, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. They are like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, they have no eyes for it, they settle in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. 'A blessing on the person who puts their trust in the Lord, with the Lord for their hope. They are like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.

### 1 Corinthians 15: 12. 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

### Gospel Accamation

Alleluia, alleluia  
Rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven  
Alleluia!

### Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who

laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

### Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you bless us with your love and challenge us to love as you do. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to be poor in spirit, that we may be rich in love for one another. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to be hungry for justice and peace. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to be faithful to your word even when we are despised and rejected. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to reject violence and war. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to rejoice in those who have died and gone to God. Grant us wisdom and courage.

We are called to include those who are marginalised because of their poverty, colour, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social status. Grant us wisdom and courage.

In silence we call to mind those who need our prayer and support..... Grant us wisdom and courage.



### Reflection

My greatest wish is for humanity  
Treating each other with civility.  
Regardless of each one's ethnicity  
All people should be treated with dignity

For when I hear of discrimination  
It generates the greatest repulsion  
And so as not to create confusion  
Every religion deserves inclusion

Judging books by their covers can only bring  
More hate, intolerance as hope takes wing  
If we could learn to be more accepting  
Bells of world peace would surely be chiming

So join me now in prayer for acceptance  
And an end to widespread intolerance  
Beyond war there will be a transcendence  
Through God's plan we'll live in benevolence

*Carolyn Devonshire*