

Dear Padre,

Who chooses the names for Catholic churches?

The bishop is the appropriate authority to designate the name of a church in his diocese. Each church should have its own title, which cannot be changed after the church has been dedicated, except for grave reasons and with the approval of the Apostolic See (Canon 1218). Examples of designations include the name of the Blessed Trinity, a name for Christ or the Blessed Virgin Mary under a title already accepted in the liturgy, one of the angels, saints, or a blessed who is approved by the Holy See for insertion in a diocesan liturgical calendar.

According to additional norms issued in 1999, “If several parishes are suppressed and a new one is established using one of the churches, its title must be retained, but it may be changed if it is a new building.” Moreover, “if several parishes are each suppressed and united into one new parish, it is permitted, for pastoral reasons, to give it a new name different from the previous title of the parish church” (Canon 1218).



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / JOE POLLIO

The faith community celebrates the titular feast of the church annually with the rank of a solemnity.

The customary practice of depositing a relic of the titular saint—when applicable—under the altar to be dedicated may be “fittingly retained” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 302). However, the inherent dignity of the church’s altar is that it is foremost the table of the Lord.

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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Hypocrisy is the worst enemy of this Christian community, of this Christian love: pretending to love each other but only seeking one’s own interests....Those who behave in this manner transit in the Church like a tourist. There are many tourists in the Church who are always passing through but never enter the Church.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, AUGUST 21, 2019



Our Parish Community

February 27, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sir 27:4–7

1 Cor 15:54–58

Lk 6:39–45

Who Are You? Really!

Like it or not, we often get our sense of who we are from others. Some people either make us feel worthwhile, or they treat us like we have little value. We all want to be accepted, to be part of the crowd, to look like we have made it. This is one reason we fall for so many fads of the day: “Everyone has one. Everyone is doing it.” Teenagers aren’t the only ones who think like this. It may take a long time before we can move beyond the opinions of others. Many never do.

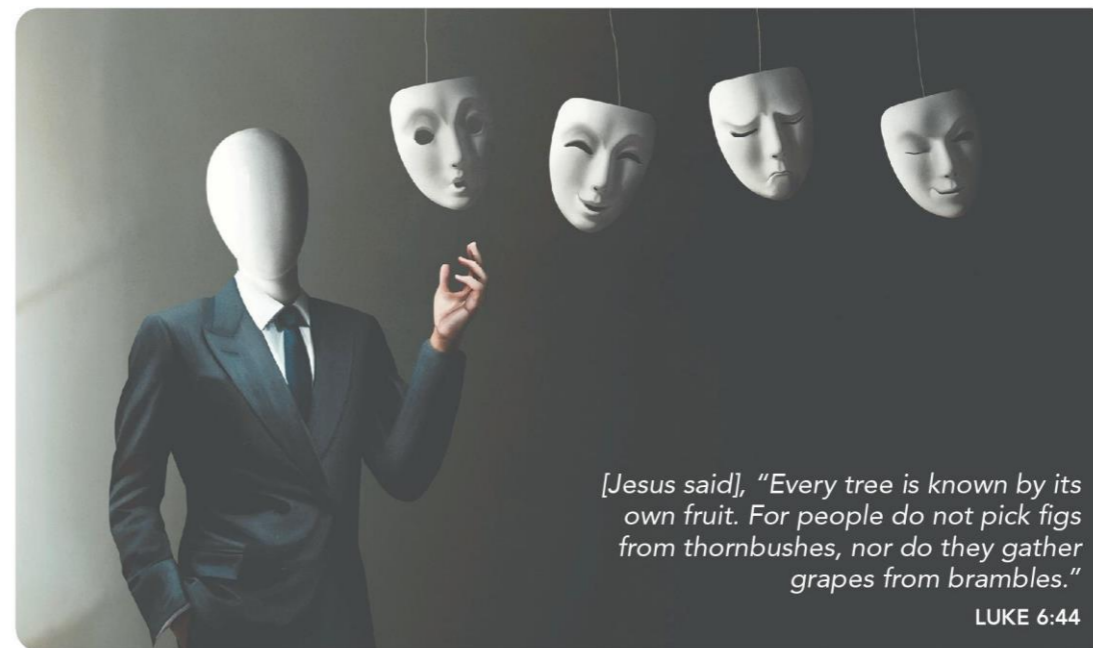
So, who are you? Really! Are you hiding behind something, some pretense? Are you trying to look like someone you’re not? Today’s readings remind us, as many have said, “Actions speak louder than words,” and as Christ said, “By their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:16). What is deepest within us eventually shows itself.

Sirach offers several examples of this. He claims that sometimes the dark side of our personalities comes out when we least expect it. But then there are times when we surprise even ourselves with our own goodness. Luke offers similar examples from both nature and human experience. Try as we might, we cannot completely hide who we truly are. And why should we? The last phrase of today’s Gospel is profound: “From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). That is where we find who we are. Really!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ How honest are you about who you are?
- ★ God accepts you as you really are. Shouldn’t that be enough?



[Jesus said], “Every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles.”

LUKE 6:44

FRAN KIEF / SHUTTERSTOCK