

# Dear Padre,

## My priest talks about the need for Catholics to “deepen our conversion.” I’m already Catholic. What else is there to convert to?

Often, we think of conversion as something that happens only when someone joins the Catholic Church. But the word *conversion* has several meanings. As used by priests, it means to enter more deeply into a life of faith. As Catholics, we are called to continual conversion through everyday gestures of following Christ (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1435).



I have a non-Catholic friend who inscribed the date she accepted Christ on her Bible. I could write “January 8, 1962” on my Bible because that’s the date of my baptism, the day I was saved. At baptism I received the grace to convert daily after I became old enough to do so on my own.

But my conversion isn’t something that happened once in the past. It wasn’t the last sacrament I received. It was the first sacrament I received as

I began my faith journey. We deepen our faith and continue our conversion as we live the sacramental life of the Church. “Christ’s call to conversion continues to resound in the lives of Christians. This second conversion is an uninterrupted task for the whole Church” (CCC 1428).

This is seen clearly through the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance. The Eucharist is something Catholics participate in weekly, and most Catholics take part in the sacrament of penance at least once a year. Why? Because we want to deepen our conversion.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*This is conversion, changing mentality—and changing life: no longer following the examples of the world but those of God, who is Jesus; following Jesus; doing as Jesus had done, and as Jesus taught us. It is a decisive change of view and attitude.*

ANGELUS, JANUARY 24, 2021



## Our Parish Community

June 5, 2022

Pentecost (C)

Acts 2:1–11

1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Rom 8:8–17

Jn 20:19–23 or Jn 14:15–16, 23b–26

## Different Gifts, Service, and Workings

Paul’s choice of words, found in his instruction to the Corinthians, is telling. *Gifts* refer to certain actions of the Holy Spirit; *service* is assistance within the community; and *workings* points to the dynamic power of God. Together these realities might raise the questions: What do I have? What can I do? How can I do it? This is the lesson of Pentecost.

We all possess remarkable gifts and abilities, some of which we might not even know we have until we are called upon to exercise them. Many interpreters think Paul was referring here to the extraordinary spiritual gifts that became obvious during liturgical services—gifts like speaking in tongues. However, he expands this list to include gifts such as teaching, generosity, and showing compassion, for example (see Romans 12:6–8). Many of us possess these gifts. As for service, all we have to do is look around. We will find people in our families, our parishes, our workplaces who need our help, even if it is simple and limited. We cannot excuse ourselves with the response, “I can’t. I don’t have what it takes.”

The feast we celebrate today reminds us we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others. Everyone *can* do something; everyone *must* do something. Paul underscores this with the image of the body, which is made up of different parts. Either we work together doing what we can or the entire body suffers. Remember, we have the power of the Spirit.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ✱ In what ways do you use your gifts to serve others?
- ✱ Be grateful for the service of others.



[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

JOHN 20:21