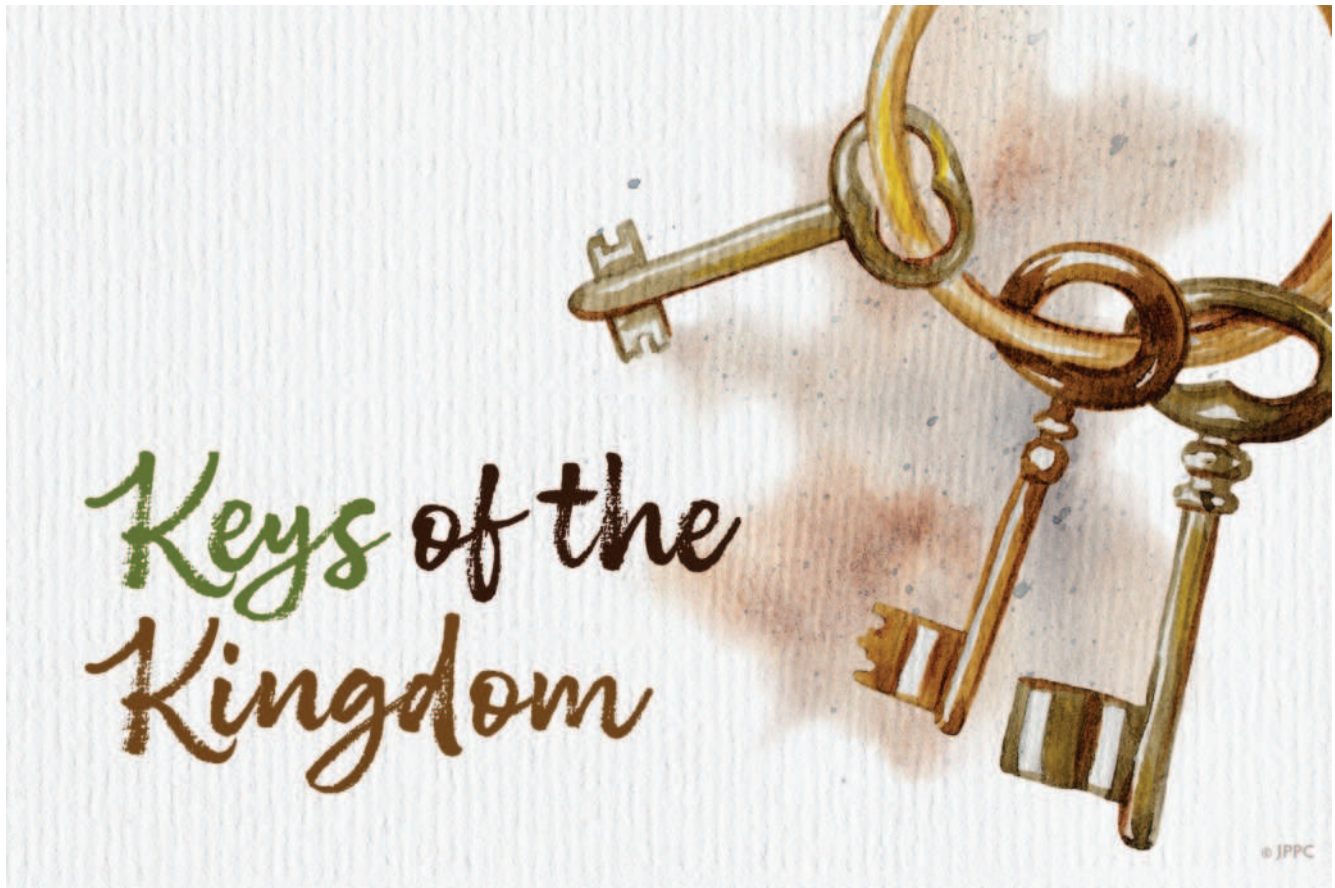


## CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**August 23, 2026**

### Masses

Mon. to Thurs. 9 am  
Saturday 4 pm  
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway  
Jackson, NJ 08527



### *Our Parish is Served by:*

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor  
Deacon Christian Knoebel  
Deacon John L. White

### *We invite you to celebrate with us*

website: [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com)  
Parish Office: 732-928-0279  
Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)  
Fax: (732) 928-1853  
Religious Education: 732-928-4038  
Email: [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicacd@yahoo.com)

*The Church of St. Monica is a warm, accepting, and caring parish that worships God, teaches and lives the message of Christ, seeks to support and strengthen family life, and serves those in need through parish ministries and organizations.*

### Confessions

Saturdays  
3:15 pm  
to 3:45 pm

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)



## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 23, 2026

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, August 22, 2026

4:00 pm Eleanor H. Hintenach  
(The Calsetta Family)

4:00 pm Theresa McKeon  
(Marge & Julius Libonati)

#### Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00 am Reinhold G. Dumschat  
(The Goldner Family)

11:00 am Michael Scott  
(Kate Scott & Bob Maras)

11:00 am Cheryl Vega  
(The Anzalone Family)

#### Monday, August 24, 2026

9:00 am Robert Spuhler and Ed Cullen  
(The Piacentino Family)

#### Tuesday, August 25, 2026

9:00 am Anne M Berardone  
(Arlene Toth)

9:00 am Mary Joyce  
(Lynne Coffey & Kate Scott)

#### Wednesday, August 26, 2026

9:00 am John Piacentino, Sr.  
(The Piacentino Family)

9:00 am Mary Klepnaw  
(Mary Boyd)

#### Thursday, August 27, 2026

9:00 am John Piacentino, Jr.  
(The Piacentino Family)

9:00 am Maureen Kiley  
(Terrence Kiley)

#### Saturday, August 29, 2026

4:00 pm Rose N. Cecere  
(The Borrello Family)

4:00 pm John Cannizzo  
(Patty & Gary Letual)

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, Arlene Toth, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Catherine Dalfonso, Christopher Dalfonso,, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Phillip Wenz, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Paul Hetteroth, Carol Spezzano, Br. Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner, Andrew G Sabine, A.J. Sabine, Stephen Alexander, Angela Belmont, Danny Merwin, Diane Hromiko, Kathy Reynolds, Margie Smith, Kevin Finnerty, Mark Hoffman, Lisa Sassone, Mark Legato, Bob Toth, Bernadette VanDerberg, Elizabeth Maras, Charles Thompson, Kim McCafferty, Janet Noordzy, Jennifer Aponte, John Catena, Stevie Borrello

*Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they can be removed.*

### Readings for the Week - August 23, 2026

**Monday** Rev 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

**Tuesday** 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 Mt 23:23-26

**Wednesday** 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday** 1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 24:42-51

**Friday** 1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday** 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 Mk 6:17-29

**Sunday** Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27



### TEARDROP MINISTRY PRAYER

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers.

Dear St. Monica we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in Heaven. Amen. St. Monica pray for us.



Check out Deacon John's new Website  
[www.thedeaconservant.com](http://www.thedeaconservant.com)

#### SAVE THE DATE!

ST. MONICA PARISH  
FESTIVAL

**AUGUST 30, 2026**

PICNIC 12-4PM AFTER

11AM OUTDOOR MASS

**Only 11 AM MASS ON SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026**



- Wristbands sales will begin next week & continuing after masses
- Adults \$12; Children 2-12 \$3.
- Donations for Tricky Tray, homemade salads or desserts are welcome
- Bring a friend



- Volunteers needed see sign-up sheets in back of church
- DJ, Games, Tricky Tray, raffle and petting zoo

Join in for a day of Fun, Food and Fellowship

Where Everyone Is Family

For further information contact the Parish office 732-928-0279

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS JULY 18 — JULY 19, 2026

Weekly Offerings \$ 2,998.00

Online Giving \$ 1,458.00

Total \$ 4,456.00

*Thank you for your contributions as we support the ministries and programs of our parish.*

**Remember you can drop off your new or gently used baby essentials in the box located in the church for First Breath Initiative.**



**They will see that they get a new happy home.**

## COR

### Men's Prayer Group

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Each Month  
7:00pm in Little Church



Drawing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through

## PRAYER FELLOWSHIP FRATERNITY

Come Join Us - All Men Are Welcomed

Missing something in your life? Why not try an hour of serenity, stories and spirituality. The Men's COR Prayer Group just might be for you. We don't sit around and just pray; we watch, listen and learn about the life of figures from long ago. Stories woven expertly from the teachings of Deacon John White. You will not be disappointed and you will leave enlightened and invigorated and refreshed for more. Next meeting is **Wednesday, Sept 16th at 7:00pm.**

## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 23, 2026

### **The Eucharist - St Monica**

#### **Masses & Reconciliation**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am--3:30 pm  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am  
Holy Days As Noted  
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm

#### **Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction**

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

#### **Parish Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

#### **Baptisms**

Celebrated outside of Mass. Parents and godparents are required to attend our Baptism preparation class or take the convenient online presentation. Please call the Parish Office to register for the class held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm. Or stop by the Parish Office to pick up a DVD copy of the class.

#### **Knights of Columbus Council #11529**

The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 by Blessed Father Michael McGivney. It is an international order of more than 2 million Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend Catholic values in busy changing world. St Monica Council #11529 has a long history of support for the parish and any local charities. If you would like to join just scan the QR Code or go to [KofC.org/join](http://KofC.org/join) & enter council #11529.



#### **St. Monica's "Teardrop" Ministry**

The St. Monica Teardrop Ministry is a prayerful initiative where individuals and the community come together to intercede for loved ones who have drifted away from their faith, drawing inspiration from St. Monica's unwavering dedication to her husband and son's conversion. Prayer is very powerful, it only took 1 Hail Mary for Jesus to come to earth.

#### **Bereavement Ministry**

Please contact the parish office for more information.

#### **Grief Support**

For those grieving the loss of a loved one or close friend. This is a Catholic centered Support Group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment to support your journey from grieving to healing. For registration and details contact Deacon John White 848-992-1652 or [dcnjohnw@gmail.com](mailto:dcnjohnw@gmail.com)

#### **Visits to the Sick and Homebound**

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society**

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

#### **Youth Group**

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, call Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

#### **OCIA**

##### *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

For those who are seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

#### **New Parishioners**

Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com)  
Please contact the parish office for further info.

#### **Adult Faith Formation Core Team**

Our mission is to encourage and support parishioners in their lifelong learning in the faith in order to grow closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through discipleship and evangelization.

#### **Marriages**

The Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey request a one year period of preparation for marriage in The Church. Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

#### **Religious Education**

Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in on-going Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Belinda Azzollini, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or [stmonicaccd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicaccd@yahoo.com)

#### **Legion of Mary**

Members participate in the life of the parish through a program of prayers and service. The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholic men and women over 18 years of age who have the good will to want to serve God through Mother Mary. During the summer meetings are at St. Monica every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. The Legion is always looking to recruit new members. If you discern a divine connection to the Blessed Mother, and feel she is calling you to join, please contact the Parish Office.

#### **Women of St Monica**

A Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community, and conducting fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways. Please contact the parish office for more info.



If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)



### CALENDAR

#### Saturday, August 22

3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass (Special Prep Reconciliation)

#### Sunday, August 23

9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass (Special Prep Eucharist)

#### Monday, August 24

9:00 am Mass

#### Tuesday, August 25

9:00 am Mass  
5:30 pm Legion of Mary  
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

#### Wednesday, August 26

9:00 am Mass

#### Thursday, August 27

9:00 am Mass  
6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

#### Saturday, August 29

3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, August 30

**Parish Festival—No 9:00am mass**  
11:00 am Outdoor Mass & Picnic

#### Monday, August 31

9:00 am Mass  
6:00 pm Religious Ed Teacher Meeting

#### Tuesday, September 1

9:00 am Mass  
5:30 pm Legion of Mary  
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

#### Wednesday, September 2

9:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Adoration

#### Thursday, September 3

9:00 am Mass

#### Saturday, September 5

3:15 pm Confessions  
4:00 pm Mass

#### Sunday, September 6

9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass  
12:00 pm Women of St. Monica Meeting

#### Monday, September 7

9:00 am Mass

#### Tuesday, September 8

9:00 am Mass  
5:30 pm Legion of Mary  
7:15 pm Adult Choir Practice

#### Wednesday, September 9

9:00 am Mass

#### Thursday, September 10

9:00 am Mass

## Grief Support Group

*A Journey From  
Grieving to Healing*

**Program Intro  
September 13<sup>th</sup>,  
2026**

**At 12:15 pm  
Main Church**



**Weekly Support Group Fall Session Begins  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> - Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 (9 weeks)  
On Saturdays at 10 am in Little Church**

To Register Call Parish Office 732-928-0279  
or email – [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)  
Or sign-up sheets in the back of the church

**Church of St. Monica**

**679 W Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527**



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer  
Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center and Retreat House  
84 Wainford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501 609-877-0509  
or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net)

#### IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

##### A MARY DAY COUNTING ON HER INTERCESSION

Tuesday, September 8 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

We begin our one-day programs this year with Mary, the mother of Jesus. As we celebrate the feast of her birth today, let us call on Mary, our mother, for all our needs. We all need a mother sometimes. Bring all your intentions. She will take us, with our intentions to her Son, and he in turn will take us to God. This is a very powerful prayer of intercession. Donation: \$25, includes lunch. Zoom: \$20

##### POPE LEO'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CHURCH GETTING TO KNOW HIS HEART AND SOUL

Wednesday, September 9 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

We begin our Fall semester listening to a short summary of Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, (*Magnificent Humanity*). Often we get to know a person's heart best by reading his words. What is in Pope Leo's heart as he writes to us, all of us? Do you have time to come and listen to his message? It is easier in a group. Donation: \$25, includes materials.

#### IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM – PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR BOOKS

##### MONTHLY SERIES

##### ZOOM ONLY FOR 12-STEPPERS EVERYWHERE HINDS' FEET ON HIGH PLACES

9 Thursdays 7:00 – 8:00 PM

|              |             |          |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| September 10 | December 10 | March 11 |
| October 8    | January 14  | April 8  |
| November 12  | February 11 | May 6    |

*Hinds' Feet on High Places* is a story of endurance, persistence, and reliance on God. This book has inspired millions to become sure-footed in their faith, even when facing the rockiest terrain. This beloved classic simplifies and captures the mystical journey in its entirety. This is a book you will never forget! Donation: \$150

##### FRIDAY MORNING RETREAT

9 Fridays 9:15 AM – Noon

|              |            |         |
|--------------|------------|---------|
| September 11 | December 4 | March 5 |
| October 9    | January 8  | April 2 |
| November 6   | February 5 | May 7   |

Essentially this is a morning set apart for God and you. Prayer provides perspective and so will our reading of *Learning to Pray* by James Martin, SJ. If you hunger for good reading, nourishing prayer and a sense of belonging to a community, come to these Friday mornings. We arrive distracted and frazzled and leave centered and refreshed. Donation: \$250

# Reflection

*By Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

Surveys are to some web sites like ants to picnics. Part of life and hard to avoid. But if Jesus gets involved in anything, even a survey, we have to pay attention. We just heard (or read about) Our Lord conducting a survey of His chosen men.

First, the locale. Usually significant in the gospels. We're in Caesarea Philippi, a predominantly Gentile city north of Palestine. Originally known as Panias because of a shrine built there to honor the god, Pan. When Herod the Great's son Philip became tetrarch, he rebuilt the city and named it Caesarea to honor Tiberius the emperor...He cleaned and dressed it up (not with a ballroom) and added his name so the emperor would know it.



So here, among impressive Roman marble and plentiful statues of pagan gods, Jesus asks the Apostles two important questions:

“Who do men say that I am?” and then “Who do you say that I am?”

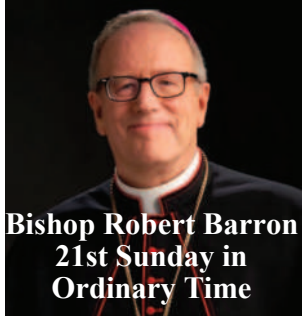
We can assume a stunned silence from the group and then a list of possibilities before Peter pipes up, as he is wont to do, with the correct answer: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!” “Wow!” we think. “Peter sure got it right!” And Jesus wholeheartedly agrees. (Try to remember this scene next Holy Thursday night, when Peter vehemently denies Jesus to the servant girl in the high priest’s garden when she confronts him hovering by the fire.)

Jesus rightly pinpoints the source of Peter’s insight as the Holy Spirit within him. Then He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, with power and authority of office that begins here and brings us right to Leo XIV from Chicago!

Rather than defend the papacy to all sorts of critics out there in cyberspace, I’d rather reflect on what St. Peter’s answer to Christ means for you and me. But what does it mean? Certainly, the endurance of the Church for more than twenty centuries comes to mind. That plus the comfort of knowing with certainty the Church’s purpose. The realization that its central truths about Jesus are forever. That no other plan on how to live is as responsive to God’s will as that of Christianity. Certainly, I must add that we are part of the only Church with a pope as successor to Peter.

But now comes the question right at you and me this summer Sunday. Who do you say Christ is? Your answer and mine determine everything. We shouldn’t need a survey to tell us. Allow me to close with a quote that fits the situation: “The true Christian is a person who is right-side-up in a world that is upside down.”

God love you and give you His peace.



**Bishop Robert Barron**  
**21st Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

Peace be with you. Friends, in the 22nd chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, we find the prophet's only criticism of an individual. And the person in the prophet's cross-hairs is a certain Shebna. He's described as master of the palace, which probably meant something like a prime minister. And the palace in question is the king's palace and Shebna is a very high official. So what is it that rouses the ire of the prophet Isaiah against Shebna so much that he says, I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station.

Wow. What did this guy do wrong? Well, we have to look a little bit earlier in the book of the prophet Isaiah, and we find that Shebna has evidently contrived to build an elaborate tomb for himself on the heights. Now, he's probably talking about the Mount of Olives. Clearly, not just a resting place for his body, but a kind of monument to himself.

And on the heights, so that everybody will see it. He's evidently gone to enormous trouble, enormous expense, to build this extraordinary monument. Think how he must have reveled in this when he was alive. Shebna must have thought, I'm a big important person now, and forever people will see my monument and remember my name.

Here's the question though everybody. How are we using the power and authority that we have? Shebna has used enormous reserves of money, energy, time, personnel in a project meant almost exclusively to aggrandize his ego. Now, one of the supreme ironies is Shebna wanted to be remembered forever, right? Hence, he wanted to build this tomb, which is long gone. If he is remembered, not that he's a household name, but if he is remembered by anybody, he's remembered because of this criticism in the book of the prophet Isaiah. Talk about a project backfiring.

So because of his great flaws, the Lord removes Shebna from his position and puts in his place Hilkiyah. And it says beautifully, he sets him like a peg in a firm place. And then puts on his shoulder, we hear, the key of the house of David. Shebna's out. Why? Because he spent his time and money and energy and brought personnel to build a monument to himself.

Here's the question. How do you use the power and authority that you have? Now, there are people explicitly in positions of official power. But everybody has got some kind of power. You have power in your own family, in your community, at your place of work. Maybe you do have some kind of very high office. The great spiritual question is, what do you do with it? It is permanently a temptation to use that power to build monuments to ourselves. And to involve lots of people in that project. The point is to use our power precisely for the benefit of those whom we serve.

I know that can sound a bit maybe like a boy scout, but that's the whole point of having power. That's why God gave you the power you have if you have it. It's for the sake of those that you have authority over. So ask yourself that question, everybody. Are you operating like Shebna? Are you spending a lot of your time and energy building a monument to yourself or breathing life into others? You know that it's a bit of a cliché now, but there's two types of people. Some that breathe life into a room and others that suck the air out of a room. It's as if you're drawing everything into the sort of black hole of your own ego, you take life out of people. But the best people in authority, breathe life into people.

I think it's wonderful in our readings the church couples the story of Shebna with the marvelous and familiar story from the 16th chapter of Matthew. Jesus giving the keys of the kingdom to Simon Peter. Just as God gives the key of David to Hilkiyah, having set him in a firm place like a peg, Jesus says to Simon, you are now my rock, right? I'm setting you in a firm place, and I'm giving you my own version of the keys of the house of David, the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

The point is, all of these positions of authority from the pope through bishops, to priests and deacons, come from this moment. When Jesus said to Peter, I'm going to set you like a peg in a firm place. I'm going to make you a rock, and I'm going to give you the keys. Has this power been abused? Yeah, sadly. Look up and down church history. Even sacred figures sometimes abused it. Acting more like Shebna than like Hilkiyah. Building monuments to ourselves rather than breathing life into our people.

So everyone spend some time this week and think about the kind of power you have. And first acknowledge whatever legitimate power you have, comes ultimately from the permission of God. God's allowed you to have it. So how do you cooperate with that grace? Be honest now, it's a point of spiritual meditation for myself as well. How am I using the power I have? Building a tomb for myself up on the heights? Trust me when I tell you this, that will result in mockery. Or rather, whatever power you have, whatever keys you've been given, use them to unlock the doors that will lead to deeper life. Use that power not to draw air out of the room, but to breathe life into it. Spend a little bit of time this week thinking about Shebna, how he's remembered. And then think about how you're using the power that God has given you. And may God bless you all.





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THE SACRAMENTS

*"I have called you by name, you are mine."*

— Isaiah 43:1



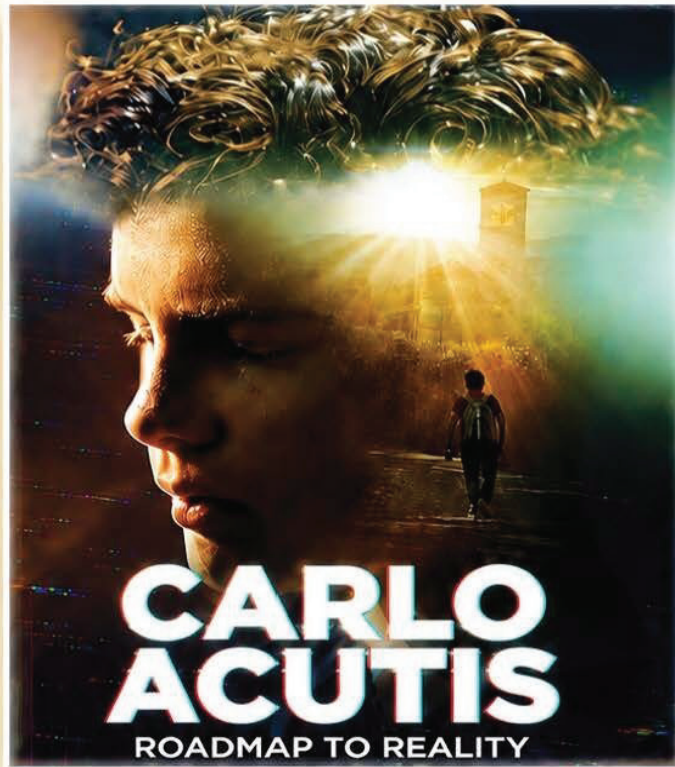
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— PRESENTS —



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★ COUNCIL 11529 ★

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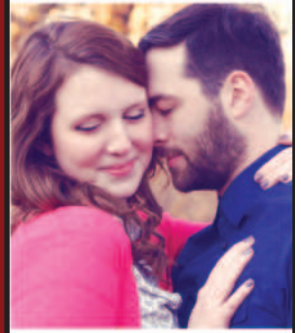
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