



# The Holy See

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POPE LEO XIV

## **ANGELUS**

*Saint Peter's Square  
Sunday, 31 August 2025*

**[[Multimedia](#)]**

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*Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!*

In every culture, sitting at table together, especially on days of rest and celebration, is a sign of peace and communion. In this Sunday's Gospel (Lk 14:1.7-14), Jesus is invited to a meal by one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Inviting others to one's table is a sign of openness of heart, while accepting such an invitation entails having the humility to be open to others and their world. These gestures that bring people together help foster a culture of encounter.

Encounter is not always easy. The Evangelist notes that the other guests "observed" Jesus closely; indeed, he was watched with some suspicion by the stricter interpreters of tradition. Yet the encounter takes place because Jesus makes himself genuinely present; as a good guest, he acts with respect and sincerity, avoiding merely polite formalities that preclude authentic encounter. Consequently, as was his wont, he employs a parable to describe what he sees happening and invites those watching him to reflect on it. For he saw people rushing to sit in the places of honour, something that also happens today, not in families but on occasions when people consider it important to "be noticed", whereby a moment for being together ends up as a competition.

Sisters and brothers, when we sit together at the table of the Eucharist on the Lord's Day, we too should be willing to let Jesus speak. He becomes our guest and he can tell us how he sees us. It is very important that we see ourselves through his eyes: to see how frequently we reduce life to a

competition, how anxious we become to obtain some sort of recognition, and how pointlessly we compare ourselves to others. Stopping to reflect, letting ourselves be taken aback by a word that challenges our hearts' priorities, is to experience freedom, the freedom to which Jesus calls us.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of "humility" in describing perfect freedom (cf. *Lk 14:11*). Humility is really freedom from ourselves. It is born when the Kingdom of God and its righteousness become our real concern and we allow ourselves to lift up our eyes and look ahead: not down at our feet, but at what lies ahead! Those who exalt themselves generally think that nothing is more interesting than themselves; yet deep down, they are quite insecure. Whereas those who know that they are precious in God's eyes, who know they are God's children, have greater things to be worried about; they possess a sublime dignity all their own. Once we learn to take the last places, rather than striving for the first, that dignity will appear, and we will come to the fore simply and effortlessly.

Dear friends, today let us pray that the Church will always be a school of humility for everyone, a home where all are welcome, a place where rivalries are set aside and where Jesus still speaks to us and teaches us to imitate his own humility and freedom. Mary is truly the Mother of that home; it is to her that we now pray.

### **After the Angelus**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

Sadly, the war in Ukraine continues to sow death and destruction. Even in recent days, bombings have struck several cities, including the capital Kyiv, causing numerous casualties. I renew my closeness to the Ukrainian people and to all the injured families. I ask everyone not to give in to indifference, but to draw close to them through prayer and concrete gestures of charity. I strongly reiterate my urgent appeal for an immediate ceasefire and a serious commitment to dialogue. Now is the time for those responsible to renounce the logic of weapons and take the path of negotiation and peace, with the support of the international community. The voice of weapons must be silenced, while the voice of fraternity and justice must be raised.

Our prayers for the victims of the tragic shooting during a school Mass in the American State of Minnesota include the countless children killed and injured every day around the world. Let us plead God to stop the pandemic of arms, large and small, which infects our world. May our Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace, help us to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (*Is 2:4*).

Our hearts are also wounded by the more than fifty people who died and the one hundred or so

still missing following the shipwreck of a boat carrying migrants attempting the 1100 km journey towards the Canary Islands, that capsized off the Atlantic coast of Mauritania. This deadly tragedy is repeated every day all over the world. Let us pray that the Lord will teach us, as individuals and societies, fully to put into practice his words: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (*Mt 25:35*).

We entrust all our injured, missing and dead, everywhere, to our Savior’s loving embrace.

Tomorrow, 1 September, is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Ten years ago, in harmony with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, [Pope Francis established this Day for the Catholic Church](#). This is more important and urgent than ever, and this year’s theme is “Seeds of Peace and Hope.” Together with all Christians, we celebrate it throughout this “Season of Creation”, which lasts until 4 October, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. In the spirit of the Canticle of Brother Sun, which he composed 800 years ago, we praise God and renew our commitment not to ruin his gift but to care for our common home.

I extend my affectionate greeting to all of you, the faithful of Rome and pilgrims from Italy and various countries. In particular, I greet the parish groups from Quartu Sant’Elena, Morigerati, Venegono, Rezzato, Brescello, Boretto and Gualtieri, Val di Gresta, Valmadrera, Stiatico, Sortino and Casadio; together with the group of families from Lucca who traveled along the Via Francigena.

I also greet the Lay Fraternity of the Dimesse Sisters of Padua, the young people of Catholic Action and AGESCI of Reggio Calabria, the young people of Gorla Maggiore and the *confirmandi* of Castel San Pietro Terme; as well as the Shalom Movement of San Miniato with the Angiolo del Bravo Philharmonic, the “Note libere” Association of Taviano, and the “Genitori Orsenigo” group.

I wish all of you a happy Sunday!