

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.

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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

Calendar

Monday

JUNE 6

*The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church*

Gn 3:9–15, 20 or

Acts 1:12–14

Jn 19:25–34

Tuesday

JUNE 7

Weekday

1 Kgs 17:7–16

Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday

JUNE 8

Weekday

1 Kgs 18:20–39

Mt 5:17–19

Thursday

JUNE 9

Weekday

1 Kgs 18:41–46

Mt 5:20–26

Friday

JUNE 10

Weekday

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–16

Mt 5:27–32

Saturday

JUNE 11

St. Barnabas, Apostle
Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3

Mt 5:33–37

Sunday

JUNE 12

The Most Holy Trinity

Prv 8:22–31

Rom 5:1–5

Jn 16:12–15

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