

Dear Padre,

The new priest assigned to our parish seldom shakes hands at the sign of peace during Mass. Isn't he supposed to?

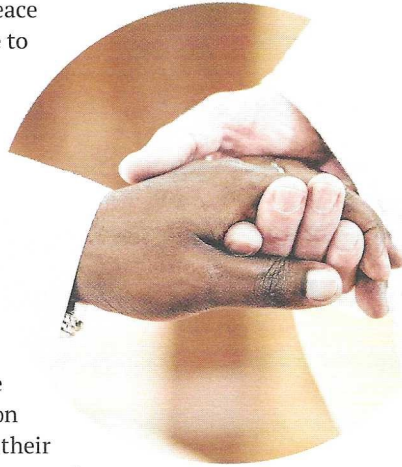
You may be surprised to know that the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (154) calls for the priest to remain in the sanctuary at the sign of peace to avoid disrupting the assembly's exchange. He has the option of exchanging a sign of peace with the ministers—it's optional because to do so repeats the first greeting of peace he just extended to everyone in the assembly.

In the United States, an exception is made for special occasions such as weddings, funerals, or when community leaders are present. In those cases, the *GIRM* allows the priest to offer the sign of peace to people sitting near the sanctuary.

Ironically, many parishioners view the presider's participation less as a distortion of the rite than as a positive indicator of their priest's social skills, as in "Father is such a people person!"

Offering—and being offered—an actual sign of Christ's peace during Mass is intended to be poignant, prayerful, and powerful, with a different kind of fanfare than when greeters welcome worshipers before Mass or when the presider shakes hands and socializes immediately after Mass.

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CNS/EDGARD GARRIDO, REUTERS



Liguori Publications is celebrating 75 years of ministry throughout 2022.

Follow progress toward our October 23 anniversary date in *Liguorian* magazine and at Liguori.org.

- Monday**
AUGUST 1
St. Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Jer 28:1–17
Mt 14:13–21
- Tuesday**
AUGUST 2
Weekday
Jer 30:1–2,
12–15, 18–22
Mt 14:22–36
or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14
- Wednesday**
AUGUST 3
Weekday
Jer 31:1–7
Mt 15:21–28
- Thursday**
AUGUST 4
St. John Vianney, Priest
Jer 31:31–34
Mt 16:13–23
- Friday**
AUGUST 5
Weekday
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7
Mt 16:24–28
- Saturday**
AUGUST 6
The Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14
2 Pt 1:16–19
Lk 9:28b–36
- Sunday**
AUGUST 7
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wis 18:6–9
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19
or 11:1–2, 8–12
Lk 12:32–48
or 12:35–40



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The quest for personal prestige can become a spiritual malady masquerading itself even behind good intentions: for example, when behind the good that we do and preach, we are only seeking ourselves and our own affirmation—that is, getting ahead and climbing up.

ANGELUS, OCTOBER 17, 2021