

# Dear Padre,

## I have some views that differ from the Church's stance. Must all my beliefs align with the Church?

**T**he answer to this question is difficult without knowing your specific views. Generally speaking, Catholics affirm a deposit of faith that the Church has received and is bound to preserve. This includes the public revelation of God manifest in the incarnate Word of God (Jesus Christ)



and preserved in the sacred Scriptures and apostolic Tradition. This deposit of faith ended with the death of the last apostle.

The deposit of faith entrusted to the Church is not simply a set of propositional truths, but is bound up in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of God's revelation

to humanity. Catholics commonly agree on certain teachings central to the deposit of faith and taught by Church authority, including the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the role of the sacraments, and creeds formulated by ancient councils. (Catholics are not required to believe in many of the private revelations and visions that have accumulated over the centuries.)

Since the mid-1800s, theologians and Church leaders have debated the infallible nature of documents issued by popes and the Vatican and the extent to which they're binding on Catholics. All agree, however, that these documents should be given the utmost consideration. Those who disagree with the Church on faith or moral issues should investigate the reasons for specific teachings. When they realize that God's laws and moral teachings begin with the dignity of the person, they may conform their views to God's truth which the Church wishes to convey and uphold.

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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Let us think now...in silence, of the things that we have inside us which prevent us from entering the [narrow] door: my pride, my arrogance, my sins. Then, let us think of the other door, the one opened wide by the mercy of God who awaits us on the other side to grant us forgiveness.*

ANGELUS, AUGUST 21, 2016



## Calendar

### Monday

AUGUST 22

*The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12  
Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday

AUGUST 23

*Weekday*

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17  
Mt 23:23-26

### Wednesday

AUGUST 24

*St. Bartholomew, Apostle*

Rv 21:9b-14  
Jn 1:45-51

### Thursday

AUGUST 25

*Weekday*

1 Cor 1:1-9  
Mt 24:42-51

### Friday

AUGUST 26

*Weekday*

1 Cor 1:17-25  
Mt 25:1-13

### Saturday

AUGUST 27

*St. Monica*

1 Cor 1:26-31  
Mt 25:14-30

### Sunday

AUGUST 28

*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29  
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a  
Lk 14:1, 7-14



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