

# Dear Padre,

*I am African American. When I go to church, I feel disconnected from the rest of my life. How does the Church fit with my culture?*

Church documents lift up different cultures as treasures to be preserved and incorporated into the life of the Church. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “[The gospel] must be proclaimed, celebrated, and lived in all cultures in such a way that they themselves are not abolished by it, but redeemed and fulfilled: It is with and through their own human culture, assumed and transfigured by Christ, that the multitude of God’s children has access to the Father, in order to glorify him in the one Spirit” (CCC 1204).

Many think “catholic” means homogenous, that the Mass should be exactly the same everywhere. On the contrary, it is “catholic” because it takes in everything. It is, or at least it should be, a cross-cultural experience, for we all are the children of God. All cultures should find their expression in the Catholic Mass.

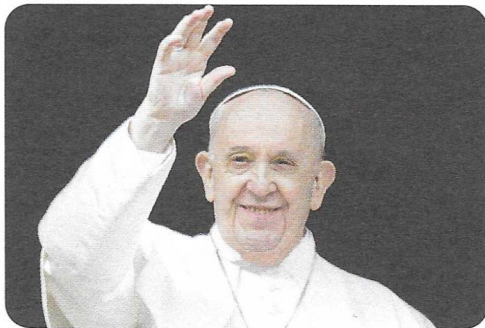
The difficulty is putting this into practice, especially in communities with members from more than one culture. Receptivity on the part of the pastor is important, too. As he learns about another culture, he’ll be more open to using the best of it in worship. Perhaps you, along with other concerned parishioners, might discuss this with your pastor. There are resources and institutes available to assist you in making your worship truly reflect who you are individually and communally. ●



ALF RIBEIRO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
JANUARY 16	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 18	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 20	JANUARY 21	JANUARY 22
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Anthony, Abbot</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Heb 5:1–10 Mk 2:18–22	Heb 6:10–20 Mk 2:23–28	Heb 7:1–3, 15–17 Mk 3:1–6	Heb 7:25–8:6 Mk 3:7–12	Heb 8:6–13 Mk 3:13–19	Heb 9:2–3, 11–14 Mk 3:20–21	Is 8:23–9:3 1 Cor 1:10–13, 17; Mt 4:12–23 or Mt 4:12–17



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The Lord is deliberate in repeating the word all. He knows that we are always using the words “my” and “our”: my things, our people, our community.... But he constantly uses the word all. All, because no one is excluded from his heart, from his salvation.*

HOMILY, WORLD MISSIONS DAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019