

August 2026

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Resource

for small group gatherings or classroom use



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

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For evangelization in the city

Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering



Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more with the Heart of your Son Jesus, who gives himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.

With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's August 2026 Intention

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

Reflection

Donovan Walsh

Donovan attended Marquette University for his undergraduate studies, where he majored in Peace Studies and Theology and interned with the PWPN. Immediately following graduation, Donovan participated in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a year, working in the Homeboy Industries legal department. He is currently attending law school at the University of Minnesota.

For Evangelization in the City

How might evangelization take shape in cities across the United States today? Answering this question seems to me a tall order, especially because cities can feel so large and impersonal, full of social ills, and lonesome. But, thankfully, God is good and came up with a beautiful answer: Homeboy Industries.

Homeboy was founded in East Los Angeles during the 1990's by Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, and has grown to be the world's largest gang rehabilitation and reentry program for formerly incarcerated individuals. Their services cover a wider range than probably thought possible, from having a paid 18-month program to help ease the "Homies" (as they like to be called) back into daily life after experiencing incarceration or homelessness, to running a cherished cafe staffed entirely by Homies in the program, to providing free resources such as personal employment services, therapy, tattoo removal, and so much more. I was fortunate enough to find myself in their legal department after college because I had decided to participate in a year of service through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

In my view, Homeboy evangelizes through serving others and by being a conduit through which the people can experience God's radical kinship, openness, and love. During my time there, everyone was welcome. It didn't matter whether the Homie or Homegirl had just come in off the streets of LA, not knowing a thing about the organization, or whether they had tried Homeboy five times before and failed. Its "success" comes not from analyzing each Homie as a problem to be solved or a person to be evangelized, but by seeing each human heart designed for and in need of love. With its doors open, Homeboy need only let God's love and mercy do the heavy lifting.

Sacred Scripture

- Matthew 28:19- “ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- Romans 10:13-15- “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent?”

Saint Connection

St. Francis Xavier- (1506- 1552)

- St. Francis Xavier was a Co-founder of the Jesuit Order along with St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Peter Faber. Xavier’s dedication to evangelization laid the groundwork for the Jesuits to become one of the most influential religious orders in the Catholic Church.
- He converted over 30,000 people in India and Asia. His approach combined personal charisma, cultural sensitivity, and the ability to communicate effectively with diverse peoples.
- He is recognized as the patron Saint of Missions. His life serves as an inspiration for missionaries and Christians worldwide, as he exemplified a commitment to service and outreach, often risking his own life to bring hope and faith to marginalized communities.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to “go and make disciples” in today’s world, especially in places where religion may not be openly discussed?
- What are the biggest barriers to evangelization today, and are they more internal or external?
- What are some creative ways the Gospel can be shared in environments where people are busy, distracted, or indifferent?
- How can small acts of presence, kindness, and consistency contribute to building a community rooted in Christ?

Closing Prayer

You know the heart of the city, its light and its loneliness.

Cities can be places of opportunity, yet also of isolation.

Give us a renewed vision to see them as fields for your Gospel.

Grant us a living faith, shown in simple acts of love.

Send us forth to reach the peripheries, comfort the lonely, and build fraternity.

Make us bold and creative witnesses in the city,

proclaiming your love through our lives.

Amen

- End with the sign of the cross.