



## Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

ANN M. GARRIDO

**T**he most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
AUTHOR  
ANN M.  
GARRIDO

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

### Reflect

*Do I allow myself enough silence, or am I tempted to fill the silence with noise?*

**Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church**  
**1002 Convent Street Pocahontas, AR 72455**  
**Phone 870-892-3319 FAX 870-892-5199**  
**E-mail Address catholicillsecretary@gmail.com**

**Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church**  
**1415 Harb Street , Corning AR 72422**  
**Mailing Address 800 Eleventh St,**  
**Corning, AR 72422**

Pastor: Reverend Stephen Elser: 892-3319  
 Director of Religious Education: Monica Loyd 892-3319 catholicilldre@gmail.com  
 Parish Secretary: Christine Baltz 724-549-6324  
 St Joseph Secretary: Carol Selig 501-940-3506  
 School Principal: Rebecca Steimel 892-5639  
 School Secretary: Kim Hills 892-5639  
 Pastoral Council Chairperson: Karen Liebhaber 897-0698  
 Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson: Allison Swann 219-9824  
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger-758-0246  
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 870-892-3319 catholicillym@gmail.com  
 Youth Ministry Core Team: Christie Yemma, Larry Weick, Rob & Michelle Olvey, Terri Jansen, Christina Thielemier  
 Lectors: Kathi Bergman 870-378-2081  
 Ushers: Joseph Difani & Doug Thielemier  
 Altar Servers: Tiffany Baltz: 870-810-2523  
 Catholic Outreach: Teresa Baltz 870-930-5700  
 Finance Committee Chairperson: Ben DeClerk 870-758-0546  
 Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight: Jeremy Stout: 810-2356  
 KC Website: pocahontaskofc.com  
 Hall rental email- PocahontasChristopherHall@gmail.com  
 A/V System: Joseph Jansen 870-202-9896  
 Gym rental: St Paul School 870-892-5639

**Mass Schedule**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**Saturday, December 27, 2025**  
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Monica Baltz, d and Ronnie Rose, d

**Sunday December 28, 2025**  
 8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Madeline Throesch, d & Father Vallapaneni Mariadass, d  
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Parishioners

**Monday December 29, 2025**  
 12:00 St Paul Mass  
 Int: Frances Baltz, d

**Tuesday December 30, 2025**  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Andrew Jansen Jr, d

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Wednesday, December 31, 2025**  
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d

**Thursday, January 1, 2026**  
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Theresa Steimel, d  
 12:00 PM St John Mass  
 Int: Jerry Pfeffer, d and Living & deceased members of the Will & Katie Thielemier family

**Friday, January 2, 2026**  
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

**Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Saturday, January 3, 2026**  
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass  
 Int: Parishioners  
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Bernard Baltz, d and Henry Dust, d

**Sunday January 4, 2026**  
 8:00 AM St John Mass  
 Int: Paul, Ruth, & Tom Weisenbach, d & Living & deceased members of the Carl & Emma Thielemier family  
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass  
 Int: Parishioners



Text App to 55321 to download our parish app  
 1. download my Parish App  
 2. Select our Parish after opening



**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Friday- 8am -11:30 am; 12:30 pm- 4:30 pm  
 Closed on Holy Days of Obligation  
 If an emergency occurs requiring the sacramental ministry of a priest, please contact the parish office Monday – Friday. After hours or on week-ends, please contact Christine Baltz 724-549-6324.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered Saturday 11 am-12 noon, Tuesday & Thursday 5-5:45 PM or most any reasonable time by request, (your identity need not be known). Come receive our Risen Lord’s forgiveness & healing.

**Sacrament of Baptism** presupposes sufficient instruction & a desire on the part of the candidate/ parent to practice the faith. *Expectant parents please ask for the Church’s blessing for a safe and healthy delivery.* Call the Church Office to schedule instructions & the service.

**Sacrament of Marriage** is a wonderful commitment of life & love, & involves much serious deliberation, prayer & planning. Engaged couples should contact the pastor at least SIX Months before setting a date.

**Sacrament of the Sick** is always encouraged for those who are seriously ill, elderly, or facing surgery. The Sacrament of Healing is available upon request. Family & friends are invited to attend & thus show their support, love, friendship, & Christian concern

**Bulletin announcement deadline is Wednesday, at noon**



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Deacon Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottspomer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

**Sacristan Schedule**  
 December 27- Nick DeClerk December 28- Josh & Jill Neely  
 January 3- Joan Gross January 4- Jeff Evers  
 January 10- Alex Baltz January 11- Scott & Abby Tyler

Financial Report	
December 23, 2025	\$17,582.00
2025 year to date	\$459,312.87
Children’s Collection	\$142.00
St Joseph, November	\$5,204.00
DOLR	\$8,149.00
Food Bank, November	\$1,275.00



**BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER**

Online Giving with We Share  
 Follow the link on the Church website to sign up.



**Church Cleaning Schedule Dec 28 - Susie Roberts, Donna Lowe, Bridget Tedder, and Jeanette Thielemier. To volunteer to join a group & help maintain our church call the office or ask someone to join a group.**

## Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule

### 6:00 PM Saturday January 3, 2026

Host Ministers: Tiffany & Maggie Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Keegan Presley, Valentina Nguyen

### 10:30 AM Sunday January 4, 2026

Host Ministers: Kim Hills, Monica Loyd

Cups: Angie DeClerk, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Rene' Tyler, Cyndy Busick

Altar Servers: Hayden Moore, Cash Cox, Aven Thielemier

### 6:00 PM Saturday January 10, 2026

Host Ministers: Mitch & Teresa Baltz

Cups: Trish Thielemier, Kelly Throesch

Cups: Tom & Chris Baltz

Altar Servers: Abel & Riles Johnson, Aubrey Hogan

### 10:30 AM Sunday January 11, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Jill Neely

Cups: Brin Presley, Shelly James

Cups: Abby Tyler, Terri Jansen

Altar Servers: Mathias Duran, Mary Morgan & Kipton Jansen

### 6:00 PM Saturday January 17, 2026

Host Ministers: Susan Meier, Paige Radcliff

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob & Blakely Jansen

### 10:30 AM Sunday January 18, 2026

Host Ministers: Angie DeClerk, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Owen Smith & Etta Clark

## Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry

January 2026: Chris Baltz & Maria Dickson

Church Office will be closed January 1st-2nd. If an emergency occurs please call the church secretary, the phone number is in the bulletin. Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Call the Church office to order your poinsettia for the Christmas Holiday. Poinsettias will be \$20.00 each.**

First Saturday devotion to our Blessed Mother is scheduled for January 3, 2026. Holy hour and confessions begin at 11:00 AM.

**Everyone is welcome, January 4** - Would you like to learn more about the origins of the Scared Mass & Prayers? Fr. Michael Wurtz will give a presentation on Sunday January 4th @ 8:45am in the Parish Life Center. Gather @ 8:30am to grab a donut & coffee/drink. Babysitting will be provided in the Life Center.

**Youth Ministry will be starting a parish food pantry.** We will eventually be looking into a larger program, but would like to start by asking for donations from the parish. Please bring any nonperishable food you can spare to the parish office.

### New Year Eve

4:00 PM St Joesph

6:00 PM St Paul

### New Years Day

9:00 AM St Paul

12:00 PM St John

## January Ushers:

**Saturday:** Benny Baltz, Nick DeClerk

**Sunday:** Travis DeClerk, Chris Hoggard, Marty Moore, James Presley

Please pray for Bishop Anthony Taylor, David Bassford, Debbie Junkersfeld, Jan Richardson, Ella Scobey, Tommy O'Donnell, Stephanie Garner, Dennis Blount, Les McPherson, Bridgette Kasinger, Gary Baltz, Jacquolyn Weick, Sheila Saala, Jessica Pfeffer, Mary Broadway, Jake Kasinger, Gail Pinion, Josh Nichols, Jo Ann Manis, Pam Flanigan, Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, Dave Weick, Mike Cook, Christina Smith, Dorothy Hoelscher, Tim Junkersfeld, Arkie DeClerk, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Joe T Carroll, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Gladys Zosso, Richard Jenkins, Jim & Shirley Lamb, Steve Bodden, Linda Davenport, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, and Keith Broadway.

# Good News!

December 28, 2025  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)*

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

ANN M. GARRIDO

**The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people** has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and regroup yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●

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# Dear Padre

December 28, 2025

**A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.**

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / Dear Padre.org

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## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



### Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Elser (501) 420-4531 [frstephenelser@gmail.com](mailto:frstephenelser@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 [stjohns4650@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns4650@gmail.com)  
 Hall Rental: Jessica Stout (870) 378-0300 Rose Throesch (870) 378-6282  
 Cemetery: Johnathan Wren (870) 202-3727 Ben Throesch (870) 378-4567

*Parish Office Hours: Thursday 8:00AM-12:00 Noon, or by appointment*

### Mass Schedule

Saturday	11:00AM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 3:30PM Confessions, St. Joseph (Corning) 4:00PM Mass, St. Joseph (Corning) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Sunday	7:30AM Confessions, St. John (Engelberg) 8:00AM Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 10:30AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Wednesday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)
Thursday	8:00AM-12:00 Noon Adoration, St. John (Engelberg) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Friday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)

**Mass Intentions**

*December 27, 2025 – January 4, 2025*

<p><b><u>St. John</u></b>                  Sun Dec 28: Madeline Throesch (d); Father Vallapaneni Mariadass (d)  <b>Thur Jan 1, 12:00:</b> Jerry Pfeffer (d); L &amp; D members of the Will &amp; Katie Thielemier family                  Sun Jan 4: Paul, Ruth &amp; Tom Weisenbach (d); L &amp; D members of the Carl &amp; Emma Thielemier family</p> <p><b><u>St. Paul</u></b>                  Sat Dec 27: Monica Baltz (d) ; Ronnie Rose (d)                  Sun Dec 28: For the Parishioners  <b>Mon Dec 29, 12:00: Frances Baltz (d)</b>                  Tues Dec 30: Andrew Jansen Jr. (d)                  Wed Dec 31, 6:00PM: Dr. Albert Baltz (d)                  Thur Jan 1,9AM: Theresa Steimel (d)                  Fri Jan 2 : Ronnie Rose (d)                  Sat Jan 3: Bernard Baltz (d); Henry Dust (d)                  Sun Jan 4: For the Parishioners</p>
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**Ministry Schedule**

	<b>December 28th</b>	<b>January 4</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>January 18</b>
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Stella Steimel Lori Steimel Joe Steimel Becky Brown	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel	Dwayne Capps Angie Capps Vernon Hausman Candace Steimel	Jim Bergman Lori Bergman Pam Durbin Mike Taylor
<b>Servers</b>	Lucy Throesch Caroline Stout Jaxon Steimel	Wade Zitzelberger Holden Zitzelberger Casyn Steimel	Max Hoose Madison Throesch Jaxon Kasinger	Henry Taylor Haley Stout Caroline Stout
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>January:</b> David Blevins & Brenda Liebhaber <b>February:</b> Bridgette Kasinger & Jessica Stout			
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>January:</b> Dwayne Hausman & Don Liebhaber <b>February:</b> Glen Hausman & Luke Zitzelberger			
<b>Money Counters</b>	<b>January:</b> Richard & Ellen Thielemier, Elaine Wallis <b>February:</b> Bonny Schmidt, Don & Brenda Liebhaber			

**Weekly Financial Report**

**December 21 2025**    Loose Cash:        \$373.00    Checks & Envelopes:    \$2105.00  
                                  Christmas Poinsettias:        \$240.00

***Christmas & New Year’s Mass Schedule***

	<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b><i>St. John</i></b>	<b><i>6:00PM Carols 6:30PM Children’s Play Mass After Play</i></b>			<b><i>12:00 Noon Mass</i></b>
St. Paul	4:00PM Mass 10:30PM Mass		6:00PM Mass	9:00AM Mass
St. Joseph		9:00AM Mass	4:00PM Mass	

**JANUARY SERVERS:** Catarina Throesch, Madeleine Throesch, Isaac Throesch

**ORIGINS OF THE SACRED MASS:** Would you like to learn more about the origins of the Sacred Mass & Prayers? Everyone is invited to attend Father Michael Wurtz’s presentation on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45AM in the Parish Life Center. Gather at 8:30AM to grab a donut & coffee/drink. Babysitting will be provided in the Life Center.

**POINSETTIA MEMORIALS:** Angelia Blevins, Emory Blevins, Johnathan Cagle, Marty Cagle, Difani Families, Gene & Betty Durbin, James & Becky Franks, Hurn family, Charles Smith, Lee Taylor, Bob & John Thielemier, Dick & Sarah Thielemier, Will & Katie Thielemier, Carl & Emma Throesch, Paul & Mary Throesch, Victor Throesch, Alfred & Minnie Weisenbach, Loyd, Marion, Larry & Phyllis Wren

**NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY:** We will be having an informal gathering in the Parish Hall with doors opening at 7:00PM. There will be cards, and music from phone. Bring snacks and drinks. The cover charge will be canned goods for the Food Bank.

**EUCHARIST ADORATION:** It seems that adoration chapels draw people closer to God, deeper into the spiritual life and provides something people desperately need at this time ... a place set apart for people to experience God in the silence they so desperately need (Matthew Kelly). Please call 870-810-0612 for questions or more information.

**PRAY FOR:** All the sick that request our prayers, especially, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Hattie Martin, Dennis Weisenbach, Mike Thielemier, Father Matthew Flatly (diocese of Jefferson City), Doris Flanigan, Bonny Schmidt, Marie Peters, Chelsea Martin, Mark Throesch, Johnathan Wren, Pam Murphy, Bob Wren, Treva Throesch, Bridgette Kasinger, Danny McCurdy, Paula Johnson, David Cissel, Owen Rowe, Dennis Burrow, Jake Kasinger, , Dickie Flanigan, Sharon Thielemier (Patrick), Betty Baltz, Karen O’Gara, Julie Session (Deacon Papini’s Daughter), Earnie Durbin, Gladys Zosso, and all those listed in our petition book. May God grant them healing.

# Dear Padre,

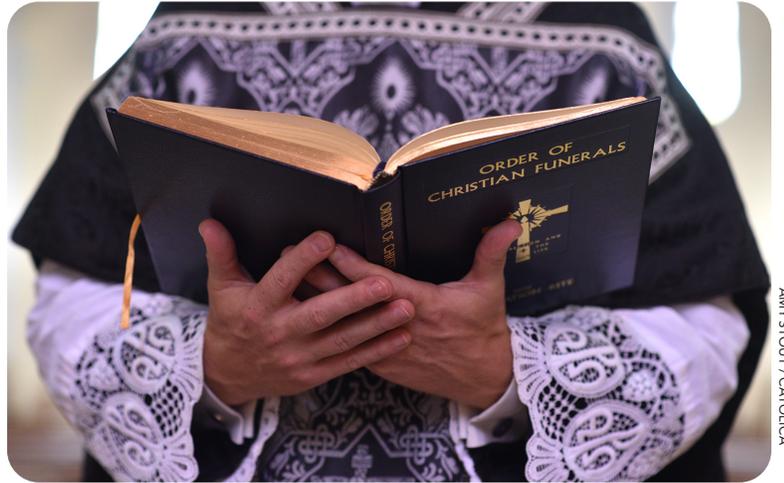
**A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.**

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**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



AMY STOUT / CATHOLICA

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



**Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so**

**many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.**

**ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

December 29  
*Octave of Christmas*  
1 Jn 2:3–11  
Lk 2:22–35

### Tuesday

December 30  
*Octave of Christmas*  
1 Jn 2:12–17  
Lk 2:36–40

### Wednesday

December 31  
*Octave of Christmas*  
1 Jn 2:18–21  
Jn 1:1–18

### Thursday

January 1  
*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
Nm 6:22–27  
Gal 4:4–7  
Lk 2:16–21

### Friday

January 2  
*Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*  
1 Jn 2:22–28  
Jn 1:19–28

### Saturday

January 3  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 2:29–3:6  
Jn 1:29–34

### Sunday

January 4  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
Is 60:1–6  
Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6  
Mt 2:1–12

ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATHOLICA