

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, October 18, 2026
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle A

Every one of us has a throne in our heart. And whether we realize it or not, someone or something is sitting on that throne.

So here is a question worth asking: Who is sitting on the throne of your heart?

This is the deeper challenge of today's gospel.

The Pharisees approach Jesus with a question intended to trap Him. "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Jesus asks them to show Him the coin used to pay the tax. Then He asks, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They answer, "Caesar's." Jesus replies, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

At first glance, Jesus seems to be speaking about taxes. But His answer raises a deeper question: To whom do we ultimately belong? The coin bears Caesar's image. But we bear God's image. If the coin belongs to Caesar, then we belong to God. But belonging to God is not simply a truth we profess. It must become a reality we live. It is not enough to say that God is the Lord of our lives. We must allow Him to rule our hearts, guide our choices, and shape our priorities.

And so, we need to ask ourselves some searching questions: What determines my decisions? What shapes my priorities

What receives the greatest share of my time, energy, and resources?

What am I unwilling to surrender, even when God asks me to?

These questions reveal who truly rules our hearts. The greatest temptation is not simply to worship the false gods of money, power, pleasure, or prestige. It is to make ourselves our own god – placing our will above God's will.

And perhaps this is the most subtle form of idolatry: We profess that God is our Lord, but insist on remaining the masters of our own lives. We want to be in control – we want everything to happen according to our plans. We want God's blessing, but sometimes we resist God's direction. We want Him to support our ambitions, but hesitate to surrender them to Him. We want God to bless the kingdom we are building, instead of allowing Him to build His Kingdom through us.

To surrender our lives to God is not to lose control, but to entrust ourselves to the One who loves us most.

True freedom begins when we stop insisting on our own way and allow God's will to guide us. The Lord asks for our total allegiance to free us from everything that enslaves our hearts.

So, give Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Fulfill your earthly responsibilities faithfully. But remember whose image you bear. Remember to whom you belong.

And remember that no earthly power, possession, or ambition deserves the place that belongs to God alone.

The question is not simply whether you believe in God. The question is whether you allow God to be God in your life. Who is sitting on the throne of your heart?