

For The Bulletin Of
April 26, 2015

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From Father Robert

All children latch onto heroes. Perhaps they are characters with amazing powers they've seen on a TV program. Or maybe they are the characters in a video game. Sometimes they are a favorite aunt or uncle whom they admire. No matter who the hero, the child wants to imitate the actions, wear the clothes, talk like the hero.

In today's gospel we are presented with a hero: the Good Shepherd. We are invited to imitate His actions: lay down our lives for others as He did.

In the gospel, Jesus proclaims that "I am the good shepherd" and "I know mine and mine know me." To know Jesus is to be one with Him, the Good Shepherd. This means that we are not only sheep who hear our Good Shepherd's voice and come to know Him, but we also are to become good shepherds ourselves. Transformed from sheep to shepherd, we take up the life our Good Shepherd has laid down. The good shepherd is concerned about, cares for, and protects the sheep even to the point of laying down the shepherd's life. Jesus requires of us disciples the same mission – to also lay down our lives.

Shepherding, then, is serious and dangerous business. It means that we cannot run away from danger like the hired man, but we must meet danger head-on for the sake of God's beloved.

Because of our baptism, we share in the new Life of Christ; our entry into this new Life is dying to ourselves – laying down our own lives. We are strengthened to lay down our lives for others when Jesus' voice is the guiding element in our daily living. By sorting through all the diverse voices we hear each day, and hearing in some of them the voice of Jesus, we know the fold to which we belong – "we are God's children now." Hearing Jesus' voice, we know that "there is no salvation through anyone else." And we willingly lay down our own lives so that others can come to the same awesome truth: a share in Easter Life, the "love the Father has bestowed on us."

Living The Paschal Mystery

Laying down our lives for the sake of others doesn't mean that we will be nailed to a cross. It does mean that we commit ourselves to "good deeds" such as caring for the sick, forgiving those who wrong us, giving thanks and praise to God, loving others as God has loved us. These good deeds are the very "stuff" of our everyday living. We don't have to go out of our way to be good shepherds. We need only to relate as one filled with new Life in Christ to those who come our way.

Often it is easier to see the dying to self, the cost, of laying down our lives for the good of others than it is to see the new Life in which we share when our lives are patterned after that of our Good Shepherd. Easter joy reminds us that even in danger, even in dying to self, even in spending ourselves for a better life for others there is found great peace and happiness. This, because we know that in self-giving we are one with our Good Shepherd and the way of living He

taught us. By dying to self we are much more open to hearing His voice calling us to Himself, where there is always comfort and peace, strength and encouragement; where we know that we are never alone, but rest in the beloved arms of our Good Shepherd.

As our scripture passages move away from accounts of the Resurrection on Easter Morning to preparing us for the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost, how are you moved to imitate the Good Shepherd?

- I experience Jesus as Good Shepherd when...I am a good shepherd for others when...
- I experience being one with Jesus most surely when I...
- I take up the life the Good Shepherd has laid down when...by...for...

About Liturgy: The Fifty-day Easter Lectionary

The gospels for the eight Sundays from Easter to Pentecost form a wonderfully cohesive progression from Jesus' resurrection to our taking up Jesus' mission to preach the gospel. There is movement from Jesus, the Risen One, to ourselves as disciples who, set afire by the Holy Spirit, continue His saving mission in our world today.

The gospels for the first three Sundays of Easter always feature appearance accounts of the Risen Lord to the disciples. During this time we focus on Jesus Who has passed through death to risen life. We become convinced in our believing hearts that this Jesus is still present to us, has conquered death, is truly risen. Now, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we are invited to reflect on Jesus' great love and care for us and be

assured that He will not abandon us. On Good Shepherd Sunday during this Year B, there is also a strong suggestion that we must take up Jesus' mission through our discipleship. This notion of our taking up and continuing Jesus' mission moves us into the second half of the Easter Season when the gospels explicitly focus on us as disciples. These last three Sunday gospels of Easter prepare us for the celebration of the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost, a Spirit who now dwells within us, conforms us to Christ, and strengthens us to take up His saving mission.

The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in Honor of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Marriage of Joe and Theresa Nelms. Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of faith, hope and the deepening of your love for one another in the Sacrament of Marriage.

Welcome Mario Rizzo

Today it is with great joy that we once again welcome our seminarian **Mario Rizzo** who will share with us his journey to the seminary and priesthood. This is very much in keeping with the initiative of our Diocese to highlight vocations today on this Good Shepherd Sunday. Mario will be especially honored by our Knights of Columbus.

Plant Sale

Following each liturgy this weekend, the members of our Community Garden will be offering various plants and succulents for sale as a way to offset the costs of irrigation to maintain the garden. Thank you for supporting them as they produce vegetables and fruit which is in turn

given away to needy families as a part of our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

Every 15 Minutes

As a part of my involvement as a Chaplain for the Antioch Police Department, I will be participating in the “Every 15 Minutes” program on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. My role is to go out with one of our officers and make “death notifications” for students who have lost their lives as a result of drinking and driving under the influence of alcohol. This program is offered for students in their Junior and Senior Year. Deer Valley High School is the site for this year’s program.

Liturgical Ministries Morning of Enrichment

Please make sure to join us for a wonderful morning of enrichment, inspiration, and education on Saturday, May 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. This is our Second Morning of Enrichment for all in Liturgical Ministry: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Adult Acolytes, Altar Guild members, singers, Choir Directors, Organists, instrumentalists, Deacons and Presiders. Our keynote speaker is once again **Fr. John Kasper** and the breakout sessions will be led by myself and **Fr. Ron Schmit**. Come and be renewed in your various ministries. See the flyer in today’s bulletin.

There is no charge to attend and the morning is being offered to all in the Delta Deanery, from Bay Point to Byron.

Night Walk Against Violence

Our next CCISCO-sponsored Night Walk Against Violence will take place on Friday evening, May 8th, from The

Church of God – Holy, at the intersection of E. 18th and A Streets here in Antioch. We gather for an orientation followed by prayer, and the walk to the intersection for the witness. Following the witness, we return to the church for evaluation and prayer. I hope you will join me for this important outreach ministry to our wider community.

100th Birthday Celebration For Rose Lafferty

Please join us for the 100th Birthday Celebration of parishioner **Rose Lafferty** on Mother’s Day, May 10th, during our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy. Rose is one of our founding members/charter member who has been involved in RCIA, the Confirmation Classes, and has been teaching Scripture Study for many, many years. She continues to facilitate the Scripture Study here at St. Ignatius of Antioch each Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. A reception in her honor will follow in the parish hall. Please join us in this historic moment in the life of our parish as we mark the Centennial of Rose’s life, faith, goodness, and love.

Rosary Sale to Benefit Our New Building

Thank you to everyone who purchased a rosary and donated to the Building Fund at our first Rosary Sale weekend! The sale raised \$390, all of which is going toward the building of our Great Hall.

Special thanks to **Joanna Burgarino, Alicia Perez, and Rowena Cayaban** for making the beautiful rosaries and to **Gail and Joanna Burgarino** for selling them after every Mass.

The Divine Mercy Observance

Last Sunday, parishioners and guests gathered in the church at 3:00 p.m. for the Annual Divine Mercy Observance. Solemn Sung Evening Prayer was celebrated and we are deeply grateful to **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence and Louis and Stella Renner** for supporting our sung prayer as the Psalms of Mercy and the Divine Mercy Chaplet were sung in the context of Evening Prayer. The homily was given by **Carolyn Krantz, M.Div.**

Following the liturgy, a reception took place in our parish hall and would not have been a success had it not been for the help and assistance of the following: **Steve Andreatta, Bobbi Ocang, Norma and Pablo Villegas, Sally Padua, Vicky Ancheta, Crispina Malosonan, Estrella Rusk, Judy Quicho, Nieves and Buck Buclatin, Vangie Parrilla, Frances Rojek, Erlinda Titus, Cynthia Enrique, Nancy Santos, Belen Farin, Rowena Cayaban, Carol and Rey Dollete, Lilia and Nick Suarez, Hanny Reingold, Doris Radovan, Ester Dimacali, Matty and Jimmy Velasco, Sonia Dimafeliz, and Zenaida Gloria.**

Confirmation Congratulations

Yesterday at the Cathedral, our High School Students were confirmed. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to them as they complete their Initiation through the Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Sacred Chrism: **Dane**

Abenoja, Brian Anyanwu, Jerrel Devera, Ken Douville, Shawn Dugao, Jonathan Francisco, Jeremy Hernandez, Joseph Lacanlale, Zach Leigh, Mary Lucido, Jasmin Malinas, Derrick Manalac, Paolo Mirano, William Necor, Ronald Novicio, Cameron Paran, Madison Stahl, and Gael Vocal.

Thank You

...to our faithful parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Nancy Santos, Mency Osborne, Emilia Freking, "Jun" Bajet, Reno Benasfre, Jack Goncalves, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our faithful parishioners who clean and maintain our bathrooms in both the church and parish hall each week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young.**

...to our parishioners who participated in last Sunday's CROP Hunger Walk: **Brian and Vicki McCoy and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...to our parishioners who supported and participated in the YLI Family Pasta Dinner: **Steve, Frances, Olivia, and Steven Rojek; Sandy, Ed, and Luke Stokes; Linda and Frank Drenik; Frank and Nona Dagostino; Brian and Vicki McCoy; Carlynn Costello; Gordon and Carla McBrayer; Pat Dunleavy; Martin Enni; Ruth Landry; Lee Oliver; Maime and Charles Esposito; Theresa Fraga, Mary Jo Keister, Terry Iacona, Mary Kendrick, Lorraine Lohmeier, Bev Iacona, Teresa Conley, Lesley Eubanks, and Joe and Crystal Stahl.**

Living The Resurrection Now

Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr offers 12 ways in which we can live the Resurrection now (courtesy of **Fr. Ron Schmit, Pastor, St. Anne Parish, Byron**):

1. Refuse to identify with negative, blaming and antagonistic or fearful thoughts (you cannot stop the thoughts but you do not have to become them).
2. Apologize when you have hurt someone.
3. Undo your mistakes by some positive action toward the offended person or situation.
4. Do not indulge or believe your False Self (that is the self which is constructed in your mind and by society's expectations.)
5. Choose your True Self – this is the self you discover in union with God and in God's love for you.
6. Always seek to change yourself before trying to change others.
7. Choose as much as possible to serve rather than be served.
8. Whenever possible, seek the common good over your mere private good.
9. Give preference to those in pain, excluded or disabled in any way.
10. Seek to make policies and systems just, rather than only performing charity.
11. Make sure your message and how you communicate it are the same.
12. Never doubt that in the end, it is all about Love.

Mother's Day, May 10th

At each liturgy on Mother's Day, May 10th, all mothers will be honored with a special blessing at the conclusion of each liturgy. This year we are doing something very unique: in the past, we have honored mothers by giving them a flower, however, this year we have decided to make a contribution in the name of all mothers to our Building Fund for the building of our new building. Our Knights of Columbus have made the same decision and are joining us in this unique and generous gesture.

Deanery Planning Process

The next Deanery Planning Process meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13th, at Holy Rosary. Our main objective that evening will be to share each parish's Strengths and Opportunities as well as to share a "Who To Go To" list to allow for more sharing and collaboration between the parishes of the Deanery.

2015 CROP Walk – From Brian McCoy

The 2015 CROP Walk wrapped up on Sunday April 19. More than 35 walkers from six churches in the Antioch and Pittsburg area participated. **Lorraine Loehmeier and Vicki & Brian McCoy** represented St. Ignatius of Antioch parish. The youth group from United Methodist in Pittsburg provided much welcomed enthusiasm generating honking horns from passing motorists along the route.

The CROP Walks are held throughout the country to raise awareness of local and global hunger issues as well as funds for both local and international organizations fighting hunger. The

St. Ignatius of Antioch local share is designated for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

On Saturday April 11, a Hunger Walk fundraising dinner was held at Holy Rosary Dominican Hall. **Dave Costanza** donated the bread, meatballs and pasta and **Vicki & Brian McCoy** donated the salad and dessert. Grace Lutheran provided appetizers. **Carole Miller and Tomas ("Mr. Sangria") Lucia** rounded out the kitchen crew.

Diners from St. Ignatius of Antioch included **Marguerite Bloomfield, Dave & Melodye Costanza, Mark & Tina Costanza, Chad & Laurie Cureil, Lorraine Loehmeier, Tomas Lucia, Vicki & Brian McCoy, Frances & Steve Rojek, Olivia Rojek and Sheri Webb.**

Congratulations

On behalf of all of us, I would like to congratulate the following who received the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus last weekend in Sacramento: **Amante Asuncion, Ed Cissell, Roberto Jovel, Jim Kollmann, Phillip Rios, and Stan Stanek.**

Knights of Columbus Founders Day

At each liturgy this weekend, our Knights of Columbus are celebrating "Founder's Day" in honor of our Founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. There will be an information table in the Gathering Plaza after each liturgy with materials on our fraternity and how you can become a member of the Knights of Columbus. My hope and dream is that every man of the parish will become a Knight and share in their wonderful works of charity and support of the Church and parish.

Relay For Life – From Alicia Perez

I want to thank each and everyone of you, our St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life team members, for your time and dedication in making the Bunco night a successful event.

I want to especially thank our parishioners who enjoyed Bunco on Monday evening for their most generous spirit in giving of their time and money in helping a cause that is so dear to my heart.

The evening started out with delicious appetizers donated and prepared by **Dave Costanza, Rich Confetti, and Lorraine Lohmeier.** Raffle tickets were sold for our ten fantastic raffle prizes donated by **Melody Costanza, Alicia Perez, and Carol Fanfa.**

Our wonderful guests played four very animated rounds of Bunco with laughter, joyous shouts of "Bunco!" and fun for all. During a short break, desert was presented, also donated by **Dave Costanza, Alicia Perez and June Stuhlreyer.**

It is with the same spirit of enthusiasm that our team would like to invite our parishioners to walk the walk on June 13 and 14 at the Deer Valley High School football field. Together we can make a difference in helping find a cure for all cancers.

For information on how to join our team or how to participate with us please call the office at 925-757-0768 and talk to **Maryann Peddicord** or call **Alicia Perez** at 925-757-3354.