

**For The Bulletin of
May 3, 2015**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

From Father Robert

A well-kept and appealing landscape takes many hours of work. Left without care, the shrubs become unkempt, the grass looks like hay, the flowers become leggy. Cutting back, cutting down, cutting away is what brings out the beauty of a landscape...and water to keep it alive! This kind of work is more than a matter of simple tidiness. It shows that the people who live on the property care.

In today's gospel, Jesus metaphorically speaks of His Father's pruning as branches who are attached to the vine, Who is Jesus. God's care for us underlies the oft-repeated gospel words remain, fruit, vine, branch. Just as God planted and tended the true vine Jesus, so does God tend us – prune us – so that we, too, might “bear much fruit.” God prunes from us whatever does not give life, and nourishes within us whatever does. Our remaining in Jesus, our bearing fruit as disciples, our believing in the Son and keeping the commandments are all the work of the Father Who tends with great care the Risen Life we share with Jesus.

The pruning of which Jesus speaks in today's gospel is simply a means to an end. The end is the bearing of much fruit. To this end, Jesus' word has a twofold purpose. On the one hand, His word is prophetic and prunes whatever drains life out of His disciples. On the other, His Word is the very sap of life

that enables disciples to remain in Him and bear fruit. True discipleship is to “remain” in Jesus. Only then does His risen Life bloom in us for all to see.

The good fruit we bear when we remain in Jesus is witnessing to Gospel living, drawing others to the Life Jesus offers us in the Holy Spirit, and glorifying the Father by the choices we make to live as Jesus taught us. True discipleship is about bearing this fruit. True discipleship, on the one hand, is very personal and at hand: we must remain in Jesus, grow in our relationship with Him, and listen to His words and take them into our heart as a habit of living. On the other hand, true discipleship is very other-centered and broad: we must reach out to the whole world. The fruit we bear by remaining in Jesus is continuing His ministry of bringing salvation to all people. Oh, how sweet is this fruit!

Living The Paschal Mystery

In today's first reading the disciples were afraid to relate to Saul because of his past reputation for persecuting Christians. Barnabas, a member of the community, took Paul under his wings and witnessed to the community on his behalf. In this way was Paul accepted so he could preach the word. Barnabas witnessed to how Paul was “pruned” by his encounter with the risen Jesus, an encounter so intense that he was “pruned” from his old zealous hatred of this new Jewish sect and became a disciple himself, one who “remained” in Jesus.

Part of our living the paschal mystery – its dying and rising – requires that we be willing to be pruned. We must allow God to tend us, so that we might rid

ourselves of whatever gets in the way of our being a faithful disciple who not only proclaims the Gospel, but also lives it in “deed and truth.” First of all, this means that we must witness to an intimate relationship with God. We do this through prayer and worship – both private and public acts of glorifying God. We also witness in “deed and truth’ through how we relate to others. Taking someone troubled under our wing to help them is but one example of how we remain in Jesus through our caring for others.

What questions will today’s liturgy and scripture raise for you? How have you felt challenged?

- I “remain” in Jesus when I...
- Jesus’ word has pruned me in the these ways...The pruning that yet needs to happen is...
- The fruit my discipleship has already borne is...New fruit that I sense is budding in me is...

About Liturgy: The Liturgy of the Word

One way to remain in the risen Christ is to allow God’s words to remain in us, shape us, and help us bear fruit. This suggests that the Liturgy of the Word during Eucharist is more than just moral exhortation or a structural element of the liturgy that bring us to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the proclamation of the Word, we are being “pruned” so that we can remain in Christ. In the proclamation of the word we open ourselves to being shaped by Christ so that we can bear the fruit of making present God’s reign in a world that is redeemed, but also torn by strife and selfishness. The proclamation of the word helps us hunger for the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation that we

receive during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, God’s nourishment for our Life and fruitfulness.

Clearly, good proclamation is essential if the Liturgy of the Word is to be taken into our hearts, made part of us, and lived fully each day. Proclamation is more than good reading – it implies that the Lector has lived the Word in his or her life, is committed to its message, and allows the Word to remain in him or her. Without this the Word cannot be a living word nor can it change us so that we can be more fruitful.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

Our next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place this coming Friday evening, May 8th, from the Church of God – Holy, at the corner of E. 18th and A Streets. We gather for orientation and prayer at 6:30, followed by the witness at the intersection, and then returning to the church for evaluation and a concluding prayer. I hope you will join us.

100th Birthday Celebration For Rose Lafferty

Please join us for the 100th Birthday Celebration of parishioner **Rose Lafferty** next Sunday, 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 for this historic moment in the life of our parish

as we mark the Centennial of Rose's life, faith, goodness, and love.

SPRED Special Celebration

During our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, May 17th, we will celebrate the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation for the students of our SPRED program. I am especially grateful to **Vicki McCoy** and the members of her team, who have prepared the students for this day.

Knights of Columbus Mass

On Sunday, May 24th, our Knights of Columbus will participate in a special way during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. They will take responsibility for the various ministries that make that particular liturgy happen. They will also be available to any men of the parish who are interested in becoming Knights. Please visit with them at their table in the Gathering Plaza where you may receive information as to how you can become a member of their ministry.

Our Portuguese Community Celebrates The Holy Spirit

On Sunday, May 31st, the members of our Portuguese Community will celebrate their "Festa Do Espiritu Santo." I will preside in Portuguese and preach in English for this annual celebration which brings together members of the Portuguese Community both locally as well as from surrounding communities. The Eucharist is celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at their hall on Tenth Street, a block from the Antioch Community Park, followed by a wonderful traditional meal of "soupas," dessert, and a raffle of Portuguese breads, wines, and desserts. For more information, please speak to Nick and Emma, Teresa Fraga, or MaryJo Keister.

Thank You

...to our parishioners who continue to be so faithful in coming early Saturday morning to clean both the church and parish hall in preparation for the weekend: **Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who faithfully maintain our bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Gino Ramos, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young.**

Letter From Archbishop Brunett

This past week, I received a letter from Archbishop Brunett which I am sharing with you. You will find it attached to today's Insert. Also, there is a wonderful color article published in the "Northwest Catholic" which he sent along as well, giving an update on his condition and activities as he continues to recover from a stroke. I have had the article posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for you to read. He is deeply appreciative of the cards, notes, and letters which he has received. I want to thank you as well for being so kind and gracious to write to him. In his letter he expresses how much those cards, notes, and letters mean to him.

The Visit of Mario Rizzo

At both of our Sunday liturgies, we were blessed with the presence of our adopted seminarian, Mario Rizzo, who shared with us his journey to the priesthood. For those present, we will never forget the powerful and moving story. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he prepares for his pastoral year and then final year in the seminary.

Garden Ministry Plant Sale Results

Thanks to the YOUR generosity, the Garden Ministry raised \$533 this past

weekend. 100% of the proceeds have been donated to the parish to help offset the irrigation costs of the garden. During the summer growing season, produce from the parish garden is used to supplement the canned goods donated to St. Vincent de Paul every week.

Additionally, thanks to the matching challenge, the sale also resulted in a matching donation of \$533 to the Building Fund.

The plants for the sale were donated by **Gail Burgarino, Joanna Burgarino, Brian McCoy Carole Miller and Bill Stuhlreyer. Thanks to Catherine Vidaurri & Will Avitabile, Don Benson, Gail & Tony Burgarino, Joanna Burgarino, Brian McCoy, Karen Oliver, Jose Perez and June & Bill Stuhlreyer** for helping with setup, hosting and cleanup.

A Personal Thank You

Once again, Thank You to all of you who so lovingly remembered both my birthday this past Thursday as well as my 41st anniversary of ordination today. I deeply appreciate your cards, notes, gift cards, bottles of wine, candy, the donations to the New Building Fund in my name, all the ways in which you continue to support and affirm me in ministry and as a person. How blessed I am to share life and ministry with you in this wonderful community of faith! May God richly bless all of you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Congratulations To Our First Communicants

Beginning with the liturgies last weekend and concluding with the liturgies today, the children who have

been preparing to receive First Eucharist over the past two years, have done so at each of our liturgies. On behalf of the parish, our Faith Formation Staff, Mrs. Frances Rojek, Director of Faith Formation, and your Catechists, congratulations on this great step you have taken in your spiritual journey. I also wish to thank your parents for their commitment to the process and trust they will continue to bring you to the next level of Faith Formation classes in the years to come. Again, congratulations to: **Leia Carrillo, DeAngelo Crenshaw, Teresa Cuyno, Aaliyah Dacasin, Mackenzie Frick, Natalia Gamboa, Fredrick Fulsas, Vanessa Mortel, Samantha Nnanna, Sandra Nnanna, Lorenzo Necor, Chiamaka Oha, Chinonye Oha, Ozioma Oha, Jose Perez III, Christian Sanchez, Mikaela Santos, Danika Saucelo, Daphne Saucelo, Janelle Simpelo, Jeorgia Travers, Makena Villegas and Illiana Vitug.**