

**For The Bulletin Of
July 5, 2015**

**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY
TIME**

From Father Robert

We are always surprised – sometimes even shocked – when someone acts out of character. A shy, quiet person might speak out forcefully, publicly against an injustice. A reserved, serious person might some night be the life of a party. A person without higher education reveals eloquence, insight, and brilliance on a challenging topic. Persons acting out of character shake up the expectations that limit our responses to others. Shockingly, in today's Gospel Jesus encounters resistance and rejection "among His own kin and in His own house." This, because Jesus' words and deeds went beyond His neighbors' understanding of Who He was ("the carpenter"). Jesus was acting way out of character for them.

The limited expectations of those in Jesus' "native place" blocked their ability to see in faith Who Jesus really was. In response to Jesus' teaching and wisdom, mighty deeds and healings, "they took offense." Their limited expectations limited Jesus' own ability to show that a new in-breaking of God was among them. This gospel challenges us to examine the limits of our own expectations about Who Jesus is and what He can do for us. It challenges us to examine our own expectations of others and allow them the space to be who God is helping them become.

God continually offers us what we need for salvation, but we often resist it. Our receptivity is key for hearing God's word and receiving the salvation God offers. The rejected prophet has no power to influence the behavior of the people in today's first reading; Jesus is unable to work miracles for those who do not believe in Him. God always offers everything we need to come to salvation; it is for us to recognize and receive it. Our very receptivity to God's Presence and gifts is an act of faith, and this is decisive for whether we receive God's ultimate gift of eternal life. On the other hand, our rebellion, obstinacy, lack of faith (revealed in this gospel as rejection) keep us from recognizing God's Presence and works in our midst, keep us from recognizing Jesus.

The shock of the gospel is the weight that our faith or lack of faith has. God never pushes salvation on us; it is a faithful gift, but one freely given and only asking of us a free response. Jesus "was not able" to perform miracles in His hometown because of the townspeople's lack of faith. Shockingly God never quits on us or abandons us; it is we who choose to resist or have faith. It is we who choose...is Jesus able to perform any mighty deed or not?

Living The Paschal Mystery

Our own "mighty deeds" which bring forth faith in others lie in our doing our daily tasks the best we can, accepting others for who they are, being patient with others' responses to us. We may not do the "mighty deed" of healing the sick, but we can surely visit them and bring a word of hope. We might not all be theologians, but we can speak from our hearts the conviction of God's word in Scripture which we've heard over and

over again at Liturgy and in private prayer.

We are anointed prophets in baptism. We receive the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We are empowered to do the mightiest of mighty deeds: be the Body of Christ, bringing Christ's risen Presence to our broken world. What will people say of us? We will shock them into taking a second look at who we are only when we live as Jesus did – giving ourselves to others.

Questions for further reflection and meditation:

- Someone who opens me to the wisdom of God is...Someone who brings me the healing of God is...
- I tend to limit my expectations of what Jesus does for me when...does for others when...
- I have experienced a new in-breaking of God in my life at these moments...

About Liturgy: Gospel and Creed

Each Sunday we hear the gospel proclaimed followed by the homily and then profess our faith. Perhaps there is a challenge this Sunday in the readings to connect these two – gospel and creedal statement. In the proclamation of the gospel we hear of Jesus' mighty deeds; as we proclaim what Jesus does we learn more about who He was, speaking the word of God on our behalf and showing us how we must live in order for God's reign to come. It is as response to this gospel proclamation of Christ in our midst that we profess our faith.

The challenge is always to make the Creed more than a superficial recitation of some tenets of our faith. The assent

of our belief is expressed in how we live. As we recite the Creed, we might think back to what has just been proclaimed in the gospel on a particular Sunday. Then "I believe" means that we commit ourselves to doing in our everyday lives what Jesus was doing in the gospel. This is why the Creed is included every Sunday so that we might publicly profess that we are the Body of Christ and will act this week as Jesus shows us in the gospel.

About Liturgical Music: Singing the Holy

The Eucharistic Prayer is the "center and high point" of the entire Liturgy. The presider addresses this prayer "in the name of the entire community to God through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit." All present join themselves with Christ in confessing the saving deeds of God and offering themselves in sacrifice. Because of its importance, we are to listen to this prayer with "reverence and in silence" (General Instruction to the Roman Missal, No. 78).

There are, however, three moments when we participate in the Eucharistic Prayer with song; The Holy, the Mystery of Faith, and the Great Amen. The first of these acclamations of faith is the longest. The Holy is based on a text taken from the Jewish morning synagogue service. The book of Revelation describes the four living creatures who surround God's throne praying in similar fashion: "holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come." Every time we sing this acclamation, then, we unite with believers past, present, and future in acclaiming the sovereignty of God over all creation and over all time.

We acclaim that heaven, earth, and history are in God's hands.

The Floral Arrangements at the Altar and Ambo this weekend are placed to the Glory of God by: Dorothy Lamendola in Loving Memory of her husband, Michael, whose birthday would have been July 4th; and by Carole Miller in thanksgiving for our country as we mark Independence Day.

Tri-Tip Sunday Thank You – From Steve Rojek

Here's the report from this weekend's very successful Knights of Columbus Tri-Tip Barbequed Sandwiches event:

We sold over 200 sandwiches - it's hard to tell exactly as there were some people who gave donations, and a few of the rolls didn't survive, and it's hard to get an exact count. But we took in \$1105 and had expenses of \$560, so our net is \$545! The cost of the meat was \$4.99 a pound when we bought it - in today's paper it's on sale for \$7.99 a pound. Scary.

Thanks to all who came out to do the work this weekend: **GK Bill Barbanica, Don Benson, Clem Bushman, Rich Confetti, Chef Marc Douville, Leo Garcia, Bob Goncalves, Peter Lozano, Pat McConnel, Jose Palomino, Steve Rojek, Steven Rojek, Olivia Rojek, Dave Simpson, Armando Vasquez, Erica Vasquez, and Daniel Womack.**

Update: Deanery Planning Process

As I have reported to you in previous Inserts, the Deanery, which now encompasses the eight parishes from Bay Point (West Pittsburg) to Byron have embarked on a process to prepare

recommendations to the Diocese concerning the future of ministry in East Contra Costa County. Where will new parishes be built? Where should additional elementary and possibly high schools be built? Is there a need to provide an additional cemetery closer to Byron? How should clergy be deployed to serve the needs of our Catholic people?

The process of our meetings has been facilitated by **Debra Gunn** who previously worked with Diocesan Pastoral Planning but now is working with Catholic Charities. Together with **Steve Mullins**, they approached St. Mary's College and engaged their help in doing a study to help us with our planning. Our parish hosted a major meeting this past Saturday morning at which the students from St. Mary's College presented their findings and submitted their report. Twenty-one students, aged 23 to 60, prepared the report after much hard work to address the issues at hand. **Will Avitabile, Pastoral Council Chair**, was present with me to receive the report. I am sharing with you the "Executive Summary" and the entire report may be found on our website.

Executive Summary

In East Contra Costa County, communities like Antioch and Brentwood, have been hit especially hard by the financial crisis and are faced with a growing need for social services. As partners whose values of serving the underserved align, Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) and students from Saint Mary's College of California's BALOS program have come together to develop a strategy to address some of the issues impacting these communities.

BALOS program students were tasked with discovering the expressed social service needs of the community, identifying partners for providing services, and developing a plan for building services and presence in the area.

Based on the project scope, students determined that a project management team would be necessary to implement the project plan and oversee deliverables. The project was broken into phases as well as distinctive teams, each with different roles and responsibilities. The initial phase laid the foundation for the project going forward and included research as well as data collection and mining. From the early research, students began to develop a better picture of the two communities. Sub-teams built a contact list of area service providers, developed survey and interview questionnaires, surveyed parishioners, and conducted interviews with priests, parish employees, volunteers, and social service organizations. The final phase of the project focused on analyzing the data collected, determining the gaps and overlaps in needs and services, and identifying opportunities to partner with existing sources.

Results of this analysis revealed findings that were consistent with the current demographic make-up and economic conditions in both cities. In Antioch, where minorities make up more than half of the City's total population, the sample population was most concerned with gangs, but also homelessness and violence in schools. Brentwood revealed a smaller population, higher median household income, few people living below the poverty level, and a lower rate

of foreclosure. The sample population here was most concerned with unemployment, homelessness and education. In both communities, the findings suggest the need for educational assistance, afterschool programs, and vocational education, as well as homeless assistance to help reduce the number of poor and marginalized people in their community.

Students identified gangs, mental health, and violence in the schools as areas where opportunities for potential partnerships exist. BALOS students suggest that CCEB continue the work that was started with Project Pathfinder by conducting further research and through continued partnerships and collaboration with area social service organizations and others within the communities.

The BALOS students of Saint Mary's Collect, Cohort ULD09 hope that this strategy for gathering information, creating dialogue, and building services and presence in the eastern portion of Contra Costa County, will enable CCEB to cultivate partnerships with area service providers and coordinate effective services for those in need.

(Because of the time limits imposed on this project, the only parishes interviewed, including clergy, were Holy Rosary and Immaculate Heart of Mary.)

Stand Down On The Delta

At our June Pastoral Council meeting, **Forrest Towe**, one of our Council Members, brought up that he is a part of the team that is organizing the "Stand Down On The Delta" event September 11 – 15, for homeless veterans. The five-day event will have tents providing

temporary shelter, temporary housing assistance and education, health screenings, dental care, DMV services, hair-cuts, legal aid, fresh food and pet care. The Contra Costa District Attorney's Office will be on hand to work with veterans who may have criminal records that prevent them from obtaining work. Planning for this event has been on-going for the last two years.

Forrest shared with us that there is a need for 695 sets of underwear: tee shirts, boxers/briefs, and crew socks (both black and white). He asked if we as a parish would support this need and we responded positively that we would. I have also invited our YLI members along with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and our CCISCO partner churches to join us in this effort. We will extend the invitation to participate to neighboring councils of each of the above organizations to join us in making this effort successful.

You may begin to collect the needed items now and then they may be brought to the church at the liturgies on the weekend of September 5 and 6 (or before). Forrest and the members of our Pastoral Council will transfer them to the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds here in Antioch for the Stand Down Event.

The event is expected to draw more than 300 homeless and at-risk veterans. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this outreach to our veterans.

Gifts and Memorials

Throughout the year, various individuals approach me and ask about providing Gifts and Memorials for the church. These donations provide for vestments,

liturgical furnishings, floral arrangements, the liturgical environment, and sacred vessels. A present opportunity for a Gift or Memorial is the designation of the new Presidential and Diaconal Chairs. Hand-fashioned by our parishioner, **Oscar Jovel**, Master Woodcraftsman, they complete and complement our liturgical furnishings and are made from mahogany, gold leafing, and black leather cushions. For further information as to how you can make these appointments a Gift or a Memorial, please contact me.

Summer Stewardship

With summer upon us, many of our parishioners will be away for well-deserved vacations. While we are able to go away, our bills and financial obligations do not! Please be sure to send in your tithes/contributions faithfully in order to help us keep current with bills, staff salaries, and maintenance. Your on-going financial support is greatly appreciated.

Our Finance Council will be presenting the Second Quarter Financial Report in late July.

Thank You

...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who came early last Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend and the past week: **Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Steve Rojek, and Jun Bajet.**

...also to additional parishioner volunteers who do such a great job of cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Mary Ewing, Robert Goncalves, and Harlan Young.**

An Afternoon At Frog Hollow Farm

Last Sunday, I was invited by **Will and Catherine Avitable** to join them for the “Bloomfield Release Party, which was being hosted by Frog Hollow Farm in Brentwood. I had never been to the farm before and was surprised and delighted to discover it. The event was held in the Packing Shed where boxes of fruit are packed and shipped locally and across the United States. One of Frog Hollow’s main clients is Whole Foods Markets. They grow peaches, plums, nectarines, white corn, and tomatoes. The Packing Shed is “open air” and tables were beautifully arranged under its protective cover with black tablecloths and centerpieces of various colored Alstromeria in Mason Jars.

Becky Bloomfield is the Owner and Operator of Contra Costa Wine Company on First Street in Brentwood and it is a wonderful place to rest, sip some of the Bloomfield Wines, and visit with others who enjoy what she has created. Becky is delightful, bright, cheery, warm, and welcoming. God has given her a special gift in her ability to blend various wine grapes into stunning Cabernets, Viogniers, Sauvignon Blancs, and her signature “Devil’s Daughter” blended White and Red. The Release Party featured wines from 2013 and 2014 that were paired with five different courses of food.

As we arrived, we were welcomed to the Sign In Table with a glass of Prosecco into which a slice of a fresh Frog Hollow Farm Peach had been inserted. The food service was unrushed and each course only served to heighten our expectation of what was coming next. The courses came as follows:

Course One: *Flatbread with Mozzarella, Apricot Relish, Prosciutto, and Dressed Arugula, paired with the Bloomfield 2014 Chardonnay.*

Course Two: *Frog Hollow Peach Toast, with Triple Cream Brie Cheese, paired with the 2014 Devil’s Daughter White Wine.*

Course Three: *Carnitas Empanada paired with the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon.*

Course Four: *Middle Eastern Style Meatballs with Tahini Dressing, paired with the 2013 Devil’s Daughter Red wine.*

Course Five: *Dessert...Santa Rosa Plum Granite with Amaretti Cookie, paired with the 2014 Viognier.*

The food and pairings of wine were exquisite! Unfortunately, I did not find out who the Caterer was but they did an outstanding job.

We were fortunate to be seated at a table with parishioners from St. Anne’s Parish, Byron, where **Fr. Ron Schmidt** is Pastor. Conversation was easy, and lots of information was shared about Liturgy, Music, homiletic style, environment, and hospitality. There was lots of laughter as well as sharing in our enjoyment of the wines and food. They have promised to come to visit our parish in the near future. One couple has faithfully attended all of our concerts and expressed their gratitude for **Don Pearson**, our pipe organ, and the concert series.

This could not have been a more relaxing and enjoyable Sunday afternoon. I highly recommend that you visit Becky and experience her “magic!”

From The Diocese – Employment Opportunities

Business Manager - St. Perpetua Parish, Lafayette

St. Perpetua Parish in Lafayette is seeking a full-time business manager.

Responsibilities include assisting the pastor in the leadership, personnel, facility and financial managements of the parish. Candidate must be proficient in Microsoft Office, have good organizational and multi-tasking skills and may perform some technical work such as accounting. Familiarity with Parish Data Systems program is a plus. Candidate must have good and effective communication skills and be an active, practicing Catholic.

Salary is based upon the Diocesan Scale classification M-4 and to be determined depending on experience and qualifications. This is an exempt, 40 hours/week, 12 months position. Position begins September 2015,

Send resume and cover letter to St. Perpetua Church, 3454 Hamlin Rd. Lafayette, CA 94549, Attention: Fr. John Kasper or e-mail to: jkasper@stperpetua.org.

NEW! Accompanist - St. James the Apostle Parish, Fremont

St. James the Apostle Parish in Fremont is seeking a part-time accompanist to play for their Youth Choir Mass each weekend, in addition to one weeknight choir rehearsal. Pianist must be comfortable playing traditional Mass settings and hymns and have good improvisational and sight-reading skills. This part-time position is classified as a Liturgical Musician according to the Diocesan Salary Guidelines and will be determined upon experience and qualifications.. To submit a resume or for more information please email Dr. Kaia Richards, kaia.e.richards@gmail.com.

Youth Minister Coordinator - St. Theresa Parish, Oakland

St. Theresa Parish in Oakland is seeking a full-time Youth Minister Coordinator to run their high school and middle school ministry programs including the Confirmation program. The Coordinator is responsible for all aspects of the above programs. The applicant must be a practicing Roman Catholic with an informed understanding of Vatican II and how it applies to the mission of the parish. Candidate must have a Bachelor's Degree with a certificate in Youth Ministry or substantial experience and coursework in theology/catechesis; strong spiritual leadership skills; excellent interpersonal, management, communications, public speaking, and presentation skills. Candidate must be able to organize and implement large, program-wide events and have flexibility in work hours. A more detailed job description can be obtained from the parish.

This position is classified as M-3 or M-4 depending on qualifications and experience. Please email resume to: keri@sttheresaokland.org.

Coordinator, Life and Justice Ministry – Diocese of Oakland

The Diocese seeks a Coordinator of Life and Justice Ministry in the Department of Faith Formation & Evangelization. This position will facilitate delivery of direct services and referrals to parishes and ethnic pastoral centers in regions, deaneries and parishes. In accord with the Church's doctrine, the Coordinator will develop and implement an evangelizing catechesis to help parishes understand and put into practice the Church's vision for greater respect for life as well as the themes of Catholic social teaching. A full job description may be found [here](#). The position is classified E-5 and is open until filled. Please send your cover letter, application and resume to: application@oakdiocese.org.

Director of Children's Faith Formation, Confirmation & Youth Ministry - St. Callistus Parish, El Sobrante

St. Callistus Parish is seeking a Director to lead its K-8 Children's Faith Formation, Youth Confirmation and Youth Ministry Programs, including sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist; Children's Liturgy of the Word; and RCIA/C (the adaptation of RCIA for Children). The Director is responsible for all aspects of these programs.

Qualifications: Advanced education in theology, preferably D. Min., or M.A. in Pastoral Theology/Ministry; minimum two years experience in ministries, especially in Children's Faith Formation. This position classified as M-2 and is exempt, part-time (30 hours/week) with health benefits.

More information on this position can be found [here](#); please contact the parish for a more complete job description, st.callistus@sbcglobal.net. If interested, please submit resumé to the parish at that email address, or mail to:

St. Callistus Church
Attn: Pastor
3580 San Pablo Dam Road
El Sobrante, CA 94803

Assistant Principal of Institutional Advancement - St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, Alameda

The primary purpose of the Office of the Assistant Principal of Institutional Advancement is to provide professional leadership and assistance to the Principal in leading a comprehensive institutional advancement program for Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School in order to achieve the fullest attainment of the school's unique Catholic mission. The Assistant Principal provides leadership and oversight for fundraising initiatives, endowment and scholarship management, enrollment management, communications, marketing and a comprehensive alumni relations program. Please see full job description [here](#).

Salary is commensurate with experience and the requirements of the position. Position begins as soon as the position is filled. To apply please submit a resume, cover letter, writing sample and three professional references by email to the search committee, hring@sjnd.org.

Oakland Diocesan Pilgrimage to Philadelphia

September 22-27

Laura Windham 510-267-8395

lwindham@oakdiocese.org
oakdiocese.org/wmf

In September 2015 Pope Francis will be visiting the US for the first time! Join the Pope, Bishop Barber, and thousands of people in Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families through our diocesan pilgrimage.

Conceived by St. John Paul II in 1994 to help strengthen the sacred bonds of families across the globe, The World Meeting of Families is designed to energize and enliven our faith. The theme for this year is: "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive."

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will celebrate a Papal Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27. Celebrate alongside thousands of pilgrims at this once in a lifetime event. Speakers include Fr. Robert Barron and Curtis Martin.