

**For The Bulletin Of
July 19, 2015**

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

From Father Robert

When we are overwhelmed by life, often it is because the needs crashing down upon us are far greater than the time, energy, and know-how we have to meet them. It seems like we never get to the point when all our needs are over and done with. One need is met, another crops up. We can easily identify with the needs in the Gospel today: the weary disciples need rest; the persistent crowd needs to be where Jesus is.

The Gospel follows last week's when Jesus sent the Twelve to preach repentance and gave them authority to overcome demons. Noticeably absent in this Gospel is any mention of healing that the disciples had done. Instead, Jesus' pity for the crowd arises from their need to be led by Jesus; they "were like sheep without a shepherd." This need was so great that even Jesus' seeking a "deserted place for him and the disciples to rest did not keep the people from hastening to Him. Jesus discerned the differing needs of the weary disciples and the persistent crowd, and responded to each accordingly. The crowd won! Jesus interrupted His rest to tend to their needs. So did Jesus win! He shepherded them beyond their need for healing to teach them what they needed to learn about the saving mission he came to fulfill.

Jesus, the true shepherd of God, always responds to the needs of others. How does Jesus respond when the apostles

return from their mission and report to Him? He invites them to come away and rest. How does Jesus respond when the crowd persists in hastening to Him? He teaches them. In fact, He shepherds both the apostles and the crowd.

Jesus shepherds everyone towards full life through both the re-creating power of rest and the transforming possibilities of new teaching. Jesus is ever the caring shepherd. Jeremiah reprovved the shepherds who misled God's people and scattered them; Jesus is the Divine Shepherd Who both knows the needs of others and responds to them. Jesus never misleads. By His own good example, Jesus teaches that responding to others' needs, fostering caring relationships, and teaching the Good News are at the heart of bringing His mission to completion.

Living The Paschal Mystery

We all need to go off to a "deserted place" occasionally to "rest a while." Whether this means taking some time alone each day to pray and rest in God, making Sunday truly a day of rest, or setting aside a few days a year to make a retreat, all of us need time to regain our strength so we can take up our own shepherding tasks. If the mission overwhelms us, we are unable to persevere. If the mission overwhelms us, we are at risk of losing sight of the mission itself. We even run the risk of becoming the misleading prophets against whom Jeremiah warned.

Achieving a balanced rhythm between the work of discipleship and the need to rest from weariness can be no easy task in itself. Like Jesus, we are called to shepherd – to care, teach, heal, listen. At the same time, we must know when it is

time for us to renew ourselves, to allow Jesus to shepherd and teach us, to balance our work of sharing the Gospel with rest, with time to replenish our spirit and energy. Self-giving and rest are two parallel poles to the dying and rising dynamic of the Paschal Mystery. Too much dying can crush us. Too much rest can lull us into being uncaring shepherds. The mission calls us to a balanced rhythm.

What “report” would you give to Jesus today about your life and your response to the scriptures?

- I need Jesus to shepherd me to...
- I hasten to Jesus when...
- I experience the fuller life to which Jesus is shepherding me when...

About Liturgy: Sunday – A Day of Rest

The emperor Constantine in the fourth century made Sunday a day of rest for all the people of the realm. It was a day when fasting and kneeling were forbidden, but also a day given over to acts of mercy and kindness. Sunday as a day of celebration and rest has given Christians time for enjoyment of and appreciation for God’s gifts and for redeemed life in all its human dimensions. Sunday rest is more than merely abstaining from productive work; the rest encourages the realization of the work of God’s redeeming power which frees us. Sunday rest reminds us that all we have is really a gift from a provident and generous God, that the fruitful work of our hands is sharing in God’s creative power.

Unfortunately, for all too many Christians, Sunday is as busy a day as any other. Stores are all open so the numbers of people who must work have

increased dramatically. It takes constant effort and a great deal of planning and commitment to make Sunday a special day. But, like the message of this Sunday’s gospel, there must be a balance in our lives between productive work and rest, between workdays and Sunday. Changing the rhythm of our week so that Sunday is truly a day of rest – marked by quality time for God and family – has its built-in rewards. We find not only a better balance in our lives, but also find our God as well.

About Liturgical Music: Singing The Great Amen

The Great amen is our resounding “So be it!” to the story of salvation retold in the Eucharistic Prayer. Between the fourth and eighth centuries the Great Amen was considered the epitome of the assembly’s participation in their baptismal priesthood. This belief was so strong, in fact, that some argued re-baptism was not necessary for persons seeking entrance into the church from a heretical sect – participation in the Eucharistic Prayer and its Great Amen was proof enough of their identity in Christ.

In all three of the Eucharistic Prayer acclamations we assent to the mystery of salvation. We acclaim God sovereign over all creation and all history. We acclaim the death, resurrection, and final coming of Christ as the Mystery of Faith and foundation of our lives. We acclaim our union with Christ in His priesthood as we participate in His offering of Himself for the life of the world. We acclaim Who God is, Who Christ is, and who we, the community of the church, are. No wonder the church lists these acclamations among the most important elements to be sung in our liturgy.

Memorial Funeral Liturgy For Alan Young

A Memorial Funeral Liturgy will take place this coming Wednesday, July 22nd, at 10:30 a.m. for our parishioner, **Alan Young**. Alan was also a Member of the Pastoral Council and attended our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist, along with his wife, **Yvette**, his brother, **Harlan**, and his sister, **Sharon**. Following the Liturgy, a reception, hosted by our St. Martha's Guild, will be held in the Parish Hall. Committal of his cremated remains will follow the reception at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Cemetery, Antioch.

Memorial Funeral Liturgy For Trevor Clifton

A Memorial Funeral Liturgy will be held this coming Friday, July 24th, at 10:30 a.m. for **Trevor Clifton**, the 23 year old grandson of **Shirley Clifton** and son of **April Clifton**. Committal will follow the Liturgy at Holy Cross Cemetery, Antioch.

Neighborhood Clean-up Day

On the First Saturday of each month, our Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) sponsor a neighborhood clean up in one of the neighborhoods of our City. The next neighborhood clean up day is Saturday, August 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join me and other concerned citizens of Antioch as we do our part to keep our City beautiful and at the same time, meet new friends. Please watch my Insert for the location and listen for the announcement at the conclusion of Sunday liturgies.

Meeting Resume

As summer draws to a close and Fall is on the horizon, the meetings of both our Art and Environment and Liturgy

Committees resume. Our Art and Environment Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 4th at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Liturgy Committee Meeting on the same day at 11:00 a.m. Both meetings take place in the parish hall.

Back Pack Sunday On The Horizon

Our annual "Back Pack Sunday" for our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr will take place the weekend of August 8th and 9th. Please be sure to see the list of classes and their specific needs in the flyer in the bulletin.

Summer Concert Series

Our first-ever Cabaret, featuring the members of our Music Ministry, will take place on Friday evening, August 14th. Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Plaza following liturgies beginning this weekend. A Champagne Reception is included. For more information, please see the Concert Series Flyer available on the credenza.

Missionary Coop Appeal

Each year our parish participates in the Annual Diocesan Cooperative Appeal which supports the missionary work of the church. The appeal will take place in our church the weekend of August 15th and 16th. More information on the Missionary Order which we will be supporting and contributing to will appear in upcoming bulletins.

An Invitation To Become A Member of the RCIA Team

The initiation of adults into the Catholic Church is the responsibility of all the baptized...Hence the entire community must help the candidates and catechumens throughout the process of initiation. (RCIA 9)

and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Gino Ramos, Geri Abaya, and Mary Ewing.**

The entire catechumenate is ordered to leading catechumens and candidates to living a true liturgical life, permeated by prayer, worship, and regular participation in the sacraments.

Therefore, we must communicate to participants in the process that *the liturgy is their means to achieve holiness.*

All knowledge of the faith, practice of spiritual and corporal works of mercy, and obedience to the laws of the New Covenant flow from the liturgical life. In light of this fact, the presence of liturgical elements in the RCIA process is crucial.

The Christian initiation process is intended to be fundamentally liturgical. Participants need and have a right to the grace that flows from the font of the Church's liturgy as it is made available to them as catechumens and candidates prior to full communion.

If you are interested in learning about the RCIA process and joining the RCIA Team, please join **Frances Rojek, Director of Faith Formation, Deacon Gary Hack, and myself** for an informational meeting on Thursday morning, August 6th from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. For more information, please contact Frances in the parish office.

Thank You

...to our volunteer parishioners who cleaned the church last Saturday morning: **Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Angela Bueno, and Mency Osborne.**

...to our volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church