

**For The Bulletin Of  
August 23, 2015**

**THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN  
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

We have to love choices between two goods – that way we cannot lose. The disciples in today's gospel are faced with a choice. This choice, however, is not between two goods. It is a choice between life and death. Just as Joshua sets before the Israelites a choice ("decide today whom you will serve") so, too, does Jesus set before us a choice ("Do you also want to leave?"). Staying with Jesus is a choice for "eternal life." It cannot be a half-hearted choice. It is a choice that must be backed up by who we are and the way we choose to live.

Jesus' teaching about the Eucharist is the fulcrum upon which this choice rests, for it is the Eucharist which draws together our relationship with Jesus as well as with one another in lives of self-giving. And this is what makes choosing to follow Jesus so difficult: the demand of discipleship is that we embrace all of Jesus' way of living – we embrace the goodness of Who He is and the demands of self-giving living as He did. On our own, we could not even make such a demanding and all-encompassing choice. But Jesus also reminds us that we are not alone; the Holy Spirit is given us as well and enables us to make the choice to which Jesus calls us.

Thus the choice Jesus sets before the disciples in this gospel is deeper than simply "Do you also want to leave?" Jesus is inviting them to come to believe in Who He is ("the Holy One of God"

given as Bread from heaven) and what He offers (His own Body and Blood for eternal Life). Believing, however, is not mere verbal assent. It must become the lived conviction of choosing to stay with and in the risen Christ. Choosing to stay with Jesus is a way of living modeled on Jesus' own way of self-giving living.

Choosing Jesus and His teaching requires letting go of what we know of God and allowing God to act in a whole new way toward us. Israel's expectations of God and who the Messiah would be blocked the way for some to see God acting in a new way and offering a whole new way of relating to us. Never before had Israel heard of a God who becomes incarnate and dwells among the people. Never before had God demanded so much of the people – to give one's life for others. To share in Jesus' Body and Blood demands of us this same kind of self-giving. The gift transforms us and in this it makes harsh demands on us, for we become like the Master and can expect to have done to us what the Master had done to Him. Choosing to follow Jesus and accept His gift of Self to us is a challenge to see beyond the sacrifice of self-giving and continual dying for the sake of others to the Life that comes from the this self-sacrifice. It is always good to remember that Jesus is the Bread of Life. Self-giving always leads to new life and this is why we are able to make the choice to stay with the Master – He has "the words of eternal life."

*Living The Paschal Mystery*

"It is the Spirit that gives life." The Holy Spirit dwells within us and is the source of our life in the risen Christ and of our commitment to follow Jesus

wholeheartedly. Without the Spirit we would not be able to shoulder the demands of discipleship, and we would return to our “former way of life.” The Spirit enables us to enter into the rhythm of paschal mystery living – of dying and rising, of self-giving and the Life of the indwelling Spirit. Constant vigilance and openness to the Spirit within nudges any halfhearted response to a wholehearted one to choose Jesus and the way of living to which He invites us.

As we come to the last Sunday of the Bread of Life Discourse, what effect has the past five weeks had on your spiritual journey?

- The daily choices I make that point to my belief in Jesus as the “Holy One of God” are...
- My eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ deepens my conviction about how I should live as a follower of the risen Christ in these ways...
- My belief is borne out in lived conviction when I...

***About Liturgy: Eucharist – Doctrine and Response***

For all too many Christians, Eucharist is a matter primarily of believing in the right teachings. Right doctrine is important – we believe that the substance of the bread and wine truly are changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ. (This is what “transubstantiation” means: substance is changed.) We aren’t just saying Jesus’ Body and Blood are given to us for our nourishment; the change in substance is real. At the same time that we struggle with right doctrine, we are also faced with a choice every time we go to Holy Communion: to become more perfectly the Body of Christ and to live as Jesus.

Eucharist always demands a self-giving response. Eucharist draws forth from us belief and conviction.

Whether our believing in Jesus’ Body and Blood stops at the level of doctrine or is carried over into our living is measured by how much over time we (and others) can actually see a difference in our lives. Are we becoming more charitable, more just, more holy? Is this measurable in our everyday actions – for example, do we say fewer unkind words, are we more aware of others’ needs, are we happier individuals? Eucharist must make a difference in our lives.

We often hear that we are a Eucharistic church, that Eucharist defines who we are. What this means in a nutshell is that we are a self-giving people, concerned always for the good of others. The Eucharist is a great gift; the gift is received not only when we eat and drink Jesus’ Body and Blood, but also when we live the self-giving this gift demands. Eucharist changes us, changes our church, and changes our world. But only when we truly live who we become in Jesus – “the Holy One of God.”

***“Laudato Si! Me Signore!”***

Tomorrow, Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, is the second of three sessions given by **Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P.**, on the latest encyclical of Francis, Bishop of Rome. I cannot recommend these sessions highly enough. Fr. Tom’s presentations are insightful, filled with great wisdom, funny, and poignant. You do not need to have attended the first session in order to attend tomorrow’s or the final session on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Don’t miss out on this singular opportunity to hear this great biblical scholar reflect on the meaning and significance of the encyclical. Breakfast

pastries, fresh fruit, coffee, and juice are provided. A free will offering is gratefully accepted.

### ***Pastoral Staff Days***

This coming Wednesday and Thursday, the members of our Pastoral Staff will meet for two days to prepare for the coming Pastoral Year 2015 – 2016. We are very fortunate to have obtained the services of **Marge Perez** who will facilitate the process of each day plus lead us in prayer, reflection, and meditation. Please keep us in prayer as we prepare to lead the parish into this new year and seek to fulfill God's will for our faith community.

### ***Hot August Night 50's Style!***

This coming Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, our Social Events Committee is sponsoring "Hot August Night 50's Style!" beginning immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Eucharist. Held in the parish tent, the evening will include dinner, dancing, and a "Hula Hoop Competition" between myself and our adopted seminarian, **Mario Rizzo**. You are invited to dress in period clothing. All proceeds benefit the parish and the Educational Fund for our seminarian. Tickets are available in the Gathering Plaza following each liturgy this weekend.

### ***Neighborhood Clean-up***

Please come out and join me and other citizens of Antioch for the next Neighborhood Clean-up to be held on Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Gentrytown Park. Our Volunteer in Police Service provide all the equipment we need to do the job. Be sure to put on sunscreen and wear a hat. I look forward to seeing you there.

***Thank You, Pablo and Norma Villegas***  
On Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, **Pablo and Norma Villegas** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marriage with a beautiful Eucharistic Liturgy, followed by a wonderful reception at Lone Tree Event Center. They requested that their 350 guests honor their special day by making a contribution to the Building Fund of the parish for the construction of our long-awaited and much needed Great Hall. During the week following the celebration, Pablo and Norma came to my office and presented me with over **\$9,000** in monetary gifts that family, friends, and fellow parishioners gave them to honor this special day in their married life. Their generosity is a testimony to their generosity, their love of God, and their love of our parish. On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank them for this self-less gift which will go towards helping us realize the dream of the Great Hall. Again, congratulations and best wishes for many more years of the best of health and much happiness!

### ***Congratulations To The Reverend Dr. Mario H. Howell***

On Friday evening, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., I have been invited to join the congregation of Antioch Church Family in honoring **The Reverend Dr. Mario H. Howell, Pastor of Antioch Church Family, and First Lady, Joyce Howell**, on the occasion of his 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Pastor. Dr. Howell is the longest tenured Pastor of all the clergy serving Antioch. He has been vitally involved in our community and a fearless advocate for social justice for all oppressed and marginalized peoples. Dr. Howell has become a dear friend and colleague and has joined us each year for our Ecumenical Good Friday Service. You are welcome to join me for this

well-deserved evening of recognition, appreciation, and celebration. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send him an anniversary card of appreciation for his twenty years of ministry to his congregation as well as to the people of East County.

***Adult Faith Formation – “The Rites to Die Right!”***

Once again, I will be presenting an Adult Faith Formation program/seminar on “The Rites to Die Right.” It will take place on Wednesday evening, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall. There is no cost to attend.

The session will focus on the church’s pastoral care of the sick, it’s presence at the time of death, related rites, and the three principal movements of the Order of Christian Funerals: The Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Committal. Issues around cremation and disposition will also be addressed. You will not want to miss this informative and entertaining workshop.

For those of you who may not be aware, I am also a Licensed Funeral Director in the State of California, License No. #1598, and am able to bring a unique perspective to the issue of selecting a mortuary/funeral home/cremation society to serve you at the time of the death of a loved one. Please mark your calendars accordingly and plan to attend.

# Pope designates Sept. 1 as World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

[Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service](#)  
[Vatican City](#)

Like their Orthodox brothers and sisters, Catholics formally will mark Sept. 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis has decided. The day of prayer, the pope said, will give individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God's help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God's forgiveness "for sins committed against the world in which we live."

Francis announced his decision to add the annual prayer day to the Catholic calendar in a letter to Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The text of the letter, dated Aug. 6, was released by the Vatican Monday. Francis said he was instituting the prayer day for Catholics because he shares the concern of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who initiated a similar prayer day for the Orthodox Church in 1989.

Metropolitan John of Pergamon, who represented the patriarch at the public presentation June 18 of Francis' encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*, on Care for Our Common Home" had suggested there that all Christians join in prayer Sept. 1. "This would mark a step toward further closeness among them," he had said. Francis said Christians want to make their special contribution to safeguarding creation, but to do that they must rediscover

the spiritual foundations of their approach to earthly realities, beginning with an acknowledgment that "the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature," but lived in communion with all worldly realities.

The ecological crisis, he said, is a summons "to a profound spiritual conversion" and to a way of life that clearly shows they are believers.

Quoting his encyclical, he said, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Francis said, will be a time for individuals and communities to "reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

The pope asked Koch to consult with and work with the Catholic Church's ecumenical partners and the World Council of Churches to make sure the prayer day becomes a sign of Christians' commitment to work together to safeguard creation "in order to be more credible and effective."

He entrusted to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace the task of working with Catholic bishops' conferences and environmental organizations to publicize and coordinate the specifics of the celebration.

"I invoke upon this initiative the intercession of Mary, mother of God, and of St. Francis of Assisi, whose Canticle of the Creatures inspires so many men and women of goodwill to live in praise of the Creator and with respect for creation," he said.

### *Thank You*

...to our volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend and the coming week: **Rose Salamanca, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Steve Rojek, Jun Bajet, and Reno Benasfre.**

...to our cadre of volunteer parishioners who are so faithful in cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms in the church and parish hall. They are there on Saturday mornings, following the Vigil Liturgy and also after the Sunday liturgies, as well as checking on them and maintaining them throughout the week; **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Gino Ramos, Geri Abaya, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Rudy Fernandez and Carolyn Krantz** for joining me at the Contra Costa County Supervisors Meeting this past Tuesday morning in Martinez.

### *First Annual Cabaret*

Last Friday evening, the members of our Music Ministry, under the direction of **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, presented our first-ever "Cabaret." More than 200 parishioners and guests began arriving as early as 6:30 to secure their places in the church. Some were honest in their pre-assessment of the evening that it would be nothing more than a "church" event, or a glorified "Karaoke" performance. What actually happened was nothing of the kind.

No one expected the caliber of music and performance by our singers and musicians. From the very first number, performed by Don Pearson, a Prelude on the Superman theme, the bar was set extremely high. His opening prelude was followed by the following:

**Chip Sharpe** performing solo and playing the guitar for “*Uncle John’s Band*” composed by Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead; **Maryann Peddicord** singing “*Till There Was You*” from “The Music Man” composed by Meredith Wilson; **Kirby McNesby and Chip Sharpe** performing “*Tomorrow Never Comes*” by the Zach Brown Band and composed by Zachary Alexander, Nick Moon, and Wyatt Durrett; **Geri Abaya** performing “*There’s No Business Like Show Business*” from “Annie Get Your Gun” composed by Irving Berlin; **Doreen Manalac** performing “*The Way We Were*” from the movie of the same title and composed by Alan and Marilyn Bergman and Marvin Hamlisch; **Gino Ramos** performing “*Bring Him Home*” from “Les Miserables” composed by Alain Boubill and Claude-Michel Schoenberg; **Paul Riofski** performing “*Try To Remember*” from “The Fantasticks” and composed by Harvey Schmidt; **Geri Abaya** performing “*If I Loved You*” from “Carousel” and composed by Rodgers and Hammerstein; **Kirby and Terri McNesby** performing “*Under The Mango Tree*” composed by Zachary Alexander Brown; **Doreen Manalac** performing “*Hopelessly Devoted To You*” from “Grease” and composed by John Farrar; **Chip Sharpe** performing “*Right Field*” composed by Willy Welch; **Gino Ramos** performing “*She’s Got You!*” composed by Hank Cochran and made famous by Patsy Cline (for which he received a STANDING OVATION!!!); **Alicia Perez** performing “*Fever*” accompanied by **Jim Peddicord** on bass guitar and composed by Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell; **Alicia Perez** performing “*Summertime*” from “Porgy and Bess” accompanied by **Jim Peddicord** on

trombone and composed by George Gershwin; and concluding the evening, the combined choirs performing “*The Irish Blessing*” composed by Katy Moran Bart.

There were tears, hilarious laughter, toes tapping, heads bobbing in time with the music, and many singing along softly with the well-known and beloved tunes. Everyone in attendance was touched by the sincerity and genuineness with which each number was performed, not to mention the beauty of each voice and the accompaniment of Don Pearson. I could not have been more proud of each one and the effort, commitment, dedication, and love that our musicians brought to this evening – it truly was a gift of their hearts. We are also grateful to **Gloria Loyola, Cecille Mirano, and Joelan Tanique** for their respective roles in making the evening so successful.

The reception following the concert was wonderful as well: champagnes from various countries and tables laden with fresh fruit, cheeses, home-made macaroons, and other delectable sweets to satisfy any palate. Many thanks to **Frances Rojek, Nancy Newton, Cecille Mirano, Charlie Mirano, Gloria Loyola, Lorraine Lohmeier**, and all those who donated both the champagne as well as the food for the reception.

*From The Diocese*

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NEW! Associate Director for Catholic Schools/Executive Director FACE – Diocese of Oakland**

The Associate Director for Catholic Schools/Executive Director FACE is responsible for the overall implementation and management of collaborative major gift activities and initiatives for growing annual and long-term tuition assistance support for students wishing to attend Catholic schools. Reporting to the Executive Director for Mission Advancement, he/she will develop, coordinate, and implement strategies which will aid in annual and long term fund development for tuition assistance, including grants from foundations and corporations. Also, he/she will develop and implement strategies for all communications, marketing, and public relations activities in support of the program's fund development activities, including electronic and printed materials. The Associate Director will provide direction and leadership in the implementation of the organization's philosophy, mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives, and stewardship of all gifts and donor relations.

Qualifications include but are not limited to the following: A bachelor's degree, Master's degree preferred; a minimum of 5-7 years of direct fundraising experience with proven track record and success in major gift, annual fund, foundation and event fundraising work; experience working with poor and economically disadvantaged communities; excellent communication skills; successful experience in supervision of personnel; proven ability to collaborate with people of diverse cultures within a complex organization; strong organizational skills; experience with budgeting, financial management, and reporting; and familiarity with and appreciation of Catholic schools.

This position is classified as E-8, full-time, exempt with diocesan benefits. The application deadline is September 4.

Send resume and letter of intent to:

Penny Pendola, Ed. D.  
Director of Human Resources  
Diocese of Oakland  
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94612

[ppendola@oakdiocese.org](mailto:ppendola@oakdiocese.org), phone 510-267-8359, fax 510-763-8055

### **Administrative Assistant, Department of Catholic Schools – Diocese of Oakland**

The Diocese of Oakland's Department of Catholic Schools is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant. This person provides administrative support to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and the Fiscal Controller of the department. General duties consist of correspondence, organization, and maintenance of files and databases; maintenance of bookkeeping, accounts payable, records; clerical support to committees, boards, and projects; coordination of special projects, research, and reports as needed by the Department; communication with Catholic schools in the Diocese, board and committee members, and Chancery personnel; collaboration with Department personnel in planning and coordinating events for Catholic schools; and supporting the mission of Catholic schools.

Qualifications include but are not limited to the following: a bachelor's degree with at least 3 years of Administrative Assistant experience; a strong customer service orientation; proficiency in Microsoft Office and database software; working knowledge of accounting principles; strong organizational skills; excellent communication skills; the ability to be a collaborative team member; confidentiality and a professional demeanor.

This is a full-time position: N-8 with full Diocesan Benefits Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Send resume and completed application to:  
Penny Pendola, Ed. D.  
Director of Human Resources  
Diocese of Oakland  
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94612

[ppendola@oakdiocese.org](mailto:ppendola@oakdiocese.org), phone  
510-267-8359, fax 510-763-8055

### **Director of Children's Catechesis – St. Jerome Parish, El Cerrito**

St. Jerome Parish in El Cerrito is searching for a coordinator for Children's Catechesis who will be responsible for implementing a religious education program to provide formation education and sacramental preparation for children in 1 grade, including Reconciliation and First Communion. Together with the Pastor, the coordinator will ensure that the curriculum, volunteers, and implementation of all aspects of the program support the teachings of the Church and the parish education goals.

Qualifications: Must be a practicing Catholic with an informed understanding of Vatican II and how it applies to the mission of the parish; BA in Religious Studies or strong minor in this field; current Master Catechist Certification; 3-5 years of experience in parish children's catechesis; an ability to generate enthusiasm and interact with a variety of groups, including parents, young children and middle school teens; flexibility in work hours as well as familiarity with computer applications including Microsoft Office, Excel, Outlook; can use email as a normal means of contact with families as well as the office phone; good management, communication and presentation skills.

This position is classified as an M-2, non-exempt, part-time, 20 hours/week. More information and a complete job description can be obtained from the

Pastor, Fr. Fernando Cortez,  
[saintjeromechurch@comcast.net](mailto:saintjeromechurch@comcast.net).

### **Assistant Controller - Chancery Office**

The Chancery Office of the Diocese of Oakland is seeking an Assistant Controller to assist in planning, directing, and coordinating the financial accounting and reporting activities of Diocesan Central Services. In addition, this position is an integral component to ensuring the parishes' compliance with various fiscal and operational policies and procedures of the Diocese of Oakland.

This position is full-time, E-7 classification, with full Diocesan benefits. Position is open until filled. If interested please submit letter of intent, resume and application to:

Helen Giuntoli, Controller  
2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[hgiuntoli@oakdiocese.org](mailto:hgiuntoli@oakdiocese.org)

### **Office Manager - St. Callistus Parish, El Sobrante**

St. Callistus Parish office is seeking a part-time Office Manager. The Office Manager assists the Pastor in the leadership, personnel, facility and financial management of the parish by managing the implementation and maintenance of policies and procedures required by the Diocese and by civil law. Responsibilities include but are not limited to bookkeeping; direct and supervise other employees; and attend parish staff, financial council and diocesan meetings. Good organizational and multi-tasking skills required.

This position part-time, 18 hours per week, non-exempt and is classified as S-3 according to the diocesan salary guidelines. Please mail or e-mail resume to:

Pastor, St. Callistus Church  
3580 San Pablo Dam Road  
El Sobrante, CA 94803  
[st.callistus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:st.callistus@sbcglobal.net)

