

**For The Bulletin Of
August 30, 2015**

**THE 22ND SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Many of our cities have installed red lights and speed cameras at intersections. Generally, people hate them. They generate far more traffic tickets than the police can issue. In spite of the negative reaction, over and over again these cameras have proven their worth: they force people to keep the law and they prevent harm from accidents that all too frequently happen at particularly busy and dangerous intersections. Yes, we hate the cameras because they cost those who disobey the law money. Yes, we also tolerate them because they save injury and lives. Ultimately, traffic laws are not about the city coffers, but about good order and eliminating accidents.

Today's gospel is about laws, as well. In their goal to be acceptable before God, some Pharisees and scribes became caught up in mere human traditions. Jesus contrasts God's just laws that free us for deeper relationships with God and each other with mere human traditions that bind and harm relationships.

In the gospel it appears that "the Pharisees with some scribes" are judging Jesus and His disciples for how they fail to keep the Jewish traditions. In fact, Jesus is passing judgment on the Pharisees and scribes by facing them with their own self-righteousness. The Pharisees fixate on keeping human traditions; Jesus frees people from rigid adherence to human traditions and redirects them to authentic living of

God's commandments. At stake is right covenantal relationship with God and others in the community. Law is about right relationships, not about self-righteousness.

One can keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the point of the law – moral living is a sign of covenantal relationship with God. Israel's taking possession of the land in the First Reading is a realization of salvation – God delivered them from their enemies as a sign that God is faithful to the covenant that God made with Israel. Israel, in turn, is to observe God's commands. But these "wise and intelligent people" don't merely keep the commandments; they know that the commandments are a sign of their faithful covenantal relationship with God. When our hearts are turned to God, we have life. This is what is at stake. God's Life is what unbinds us and gives us the ultimate freedom.

Living The Paschal Mystery

It's easier to clean the pots and pans than to clean one's heart! The Pharisees are concerned with washing hands; Jesus is concerned about washing feet! Law is not given to be kept for its own sake; law is given for the good of the people. Any traditions to which we adhere must be for the sake of the purpose of God's commandments: to live in right relationship with God and each other.

What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Liturgy on Sunday; after all, this is what most of us grew up doing; this is what Catholics do. Or, perhaps we cling to rote prayers that we learned as a child rather than stretch our relationship with God to find new prayer expressions. We need to look at the way we live, and this

will tell us whether we have hearts truly turned toward God in a healthy and life-giving relationship. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living – self-giving for the sake of others that deepens our relationships. This is how we have life. This is how commandments free us.

Did you find today's scriptures challenging?

- The “human traditions” on which I am fixated are...This affects my relationship with God and others in that...
- I tend to judge others about how they live when...Jesus judges me and I learn that...
- Keeping God's commandments helps me to be in right relationships in these ways...

About Liturgy: The Second Reading Fits This Sunday!

By happy coincidence the Second Reading corresponds nicely with today's gospel – it gives the counterpart behaviors for the list of sins with which the gospel selection concludes. It points us in the direction of forming right relationships. This would be a good Sunday to spend some time reflecting on the Second Reading.

Liturgy and Life

The gospel's inclusion of the quotation from Isaiah is a strong reminder for us of the necessity of an inherent relationship between liturgy and life. The prophets often sounded the warning that worship without right living is not acceptable to God. Our Christian liturgy, however, demands more of us than simply doing just deeds. Our liturgy forms us into a just people so that our good deeds come from within us. Both liturgy and life are

rooted in the paschal mystery with its demand to die to self so that we can rise to new life. This isn't something we can do occasionally – it is a way of life.

What is at stake in this way of life is a relationship with God evidenced in keeping God's commandments. Obedience goes way beyond blind obedience – it is really about coming closer to the Lord God. Paying attention to the Presence of God dwelling within us and then living out of this intimate relationship with the Divine is what brings us to the good way of living described in the Second Reading.

The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in Honor of the Fortieth Anniversary of Marriage of Will and Catherine Avitabile. May God bless them with the best of health and many more years of happiness and the deepening of their love. Congratulations!

Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP

Tomorrow morning, August 31st, is the third in the series of three seminars by Father Tom on the new encyclical of Francis, Bishop of Rome, “Laudato Si! Mi Signore!” The session begins at 8:45 a.m. following the Morning Eucharist. Breakfast pastries, fresh fruit, coffee, and juice are provided. There is a free will offering to support the work of Father Tom and the Interfaith Peace Project. You do not need to have attended the first two sessions to attend this session tomorrow morning. I hope you will be able to join us.

***Art & Environment and Liturgy
Committees Meet This Week***

The members of our Art & Environment and Liturgy Committees will meet this coming Tuesday, September 1st at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. respectively. If you are interested in becoming a part of either of these committees, you are most welcome. They have both begun the planning for the Fall, All Saints, All Souls, the Annual Parish Memorial Liturgy, the conclusion of Ordinary Time, Christ the King, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Both meetings are held in the parish hall.

Neighborhood Clean-up

Once again in today's bulletin you will find a flyer announcing the next Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up to be held this coming Saturday, September 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The site for this month's clean-up is Gentrytown Park. All the equipment you need is supplied by our Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS). This is a great way to make a difference, to meet new friends, and to live out the latest encyclical of our Holy Father to care for Mother Earth. Last month, **Sue Howell and Paul Burgarino**, joined me along with about 40 to 50 other residents of our City. I hope you will join us.

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

On Friday evening, September 11th, 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 20th 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, September 23rd, 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.

Thank You

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who do such a great job of caring for and maintaining our church, parish hall and kitchen. They arrive early each Saturday morning to clean, polish, sweep, wash, dust, wet mop, remove all garbage and trash, replace garbage can liners, and make sure the church is ready for the weekend and the week to come. Our thanks to: **Reno Benasfre, Jun Bajet, Emilia Freking, Mency Osborne, and Angela Bueno.**

...we are also grateful to additional volunteer parishioners to clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Steve Rojek, Robert Goncalves, Harlan Young, Gino Ramos, and Geri Abaya.**

From St. Peter Martyr School

Dear Father Robert,

Thank you and your parishioners for your generous response to the donation of backpacks and school supplies for the children of our school. A very special thank you to Brian McCoy and all who helped in coordinating and contributing to this wonderful project. Dave Costanza and Bob Carvalho delivered 85 backpacks filled with school supplies for our students. We continue to be graced by the heartfelt generosity and love from St. Ignatius of Antioch in support of Catholic Education. What a blessing!

The backpacks and supplies bring joy and hope to all students and their families who receive them. This is a great back-to-school gift and an excellent example of stewardship for our students.

On behalf of the students, families, faculty, and staff, I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your prayers and support. You and all the parishioners are remembered in our daily prayers of gratitude.

Respectfully yours in Christ,
Joe Siino, Principal

Pope Francis' exhortation to walk on the margins makes us squirm

[NCR Editorial Staff](#) - [Editorial](#)

In the growing corpus of Pope Francis pronouncements -- in homilies and speeches and encyclicals -- an eloquence adheres that might safely be characterized as singular in quality in the long history of papal literature. It is an eloquence eminently accessible, born of personal experience and shaped primarily by his love of the poor.

It is not a distant love or a romanticized notion out of which he speaks. He doesn't make heroes of poor people or conjure some noble purpose out of poverty that will somehow be fully realized in the next life.

Quite the opposite. Transcendence is not reserved for some other reality. For Francis, the Christ we worship in the quiet of the sanctuary is the Christ of the streets. Francis is about real here-and-now situations in very plain language,

and that language at times is disarmingly undiplomatic.

Indeed, in the United States, the eloquence is difficult to discern. The words make us squirm.

During his speech in Bolivia to members of popular movements, he said: "When we look into the eyes of the suffering, when we see the faces of the endangered campesino, the poor laborer, the downtrodden native, the homeless family, the persecuted migrant, the unemployed young person, the exploited child, the mother who lost her child in a shootout because the barrio was occupied by drug dealers, the father who lost his daughter to enslavement ... when we think of all those names and faces, our hearts break because of so much sorrow and pain. And we are deeply moved."

It was a telling moment. No one smirked or thought it an exaggeration that he places himself fully within those circles. He's been there. It is part of the authenticity that makes his words not only bearable when they might understandably repel, but actually inviting and enticing.

His exhortation to walk to the margins is not a rhetorical flourish; his now-familiar reference to the "art of encounter" is not metaphor. The images he supplies repeatedly in real time and circumstances demonstrate precisely what he means -- move into the margins of society among the broken, the disfigured, the financially destitute, those behind bars. They are the first preference for his attention and energy, the starting point from which flows his

understanding of the heart of the Gospel and the Christian life.

How many of us have heard during a retreat or day of recollection some version of the "inverted triangle," a simple image to explain how the Christian understanding of what is important in life might be different from what is preached by Wall Street or the daily bombardment of ads encountered in every corner of life.

Francis goes deeper than explanation, well beyond mere tolerance. And this, perhaps, is what makes us nervous here in the First World, the developed world, the rich North.

This pope is not ideological or partisan. He is radical in the most essential sense - going to the root of things. It can't be overstated that an indispensable part of his formation occurred steeped in the "storms of people's lives" in the slums around Buenos Aires, Argentina. These are not places where one meets perfect nuclear Catholic families. These are not places of investment portfolios, career ladders, elegant dinners and heady intellectual conversation. These are not places that influence a country's economic or military policies. But they are his starting point, the first lens through which he views the rest of the world.

Those who wish to define Catholic orthodoxy by a narrow list of sexual sins are inclined to describe themselves as countercultural, fighting the mighty forces of secularism.

Come September and Francis' visit, we all are likely to be shaken to our roots by a much-expanded definition of Catholic

orthodoxy and a far more demanding idea of what it means to be countercultural in the United States.

"You, dear brothers and sisters, often work on little things, in local situations, amid forms of injustice which you do not simply accept but actively resist," he told the community activists in Bolivia. He was applauding them and their heroic work for "standing up to an idolatrous system which excludes, debases and kills."

Those in the room needed no further explanation of what he meant by "an idolatrous system." It is, in his words, "a globalization that excludes." He is about to arrive in globalization central.

From The Diocese

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! Accompanist – St. Michael, Livermore

St. Michael in Livermore needs an accompanist to play for two Masses each weekend and one night a week for choir rehearsal. Holy Days, feast days, and other special events would also be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Applicants must have experience playing piano and organ in Catholic Mass settings (organ lessons can be made available if necessary). Other qualifications include the following: excellent sight-reading skills, the proficiency to read and play standard notation and chord symbols, and the ability to assist with choral groups.

This is a part-time position, classified as a Liturgical Musician according to the Diocesan Salary Guidelines.

For additional information about the position or application process, please contact JaNet Hancock, Director of Music Ministries:

pray2wice@sbcglobal.net
phone 925-292-5071

NEW! Facilities Manager – St. Isidore, Danville

St. Isidore Church in Danville is seeking a Full-Time Facilities Manager to oversee the maintenance of the facilities and its equipment, including preventative maintenance and repairs. The Facilities Manager will supervise janitorial, maintenance, and grounds-keeping staff and provide routine maintenance for the parish buildings and grounds. Qualifications include the following: the skill to complete minor repairs, on-call availability to respond to off-hours facility emergencies, and the ability to communicate with vendors, contractors, and the general public. This position is classified as M-2, S-5 or S-6 depending on qualifications and experience. Full benefits included per Diocesan guidelines.

For more information, call Kendee Sigmon, Business Manager, at 925-362-1917, or to apply, send resume and letter of interest to sigmon.kendee@st-isidore-danville.org.

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,
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,
phone 510-267-8359, fax 510-763-8055

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

***The World Day of Prayer for Creation
September 1st***

This Tuesday, September 1st, marks The World Day of Prayer for Creation. The following prayer was composed by Francis, Bishop of Rome, and is found at the conclusion of his encyclical, "Laudato, Si! Mi Signore!" Please take some time to join millions of people around the world in praying this beautiful prayer at some point on Tuesday:

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand: they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide the world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and

you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light. Help us to protect all life to prepare for a better future for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.