

## For The Bulletin of September 27, 2015

### THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### *From Father Robert*

Magnets attract. The stronger the magnet, the stronger the attraction. Some large magnets are so powerful that it takes a great deal of muscle power to pull the magnet off the metal. Like attracts like. The more the convergences of ideas, values, and interests, the stronger the attraction. Jesus was a strong magnet Who attracted disciples to Him, disciples who acted in “His name,” who assumed His values. Today’s gospel also shows others who were attracted to Jesus, those acting with Jesus’ power who were not among Jesus’ band of disciples. In the gospel Jesus illustrates two opposing ways to be His disciple: someone who does not seemingly follow Jesus, but does good; someone who follows Jesus, but sins. The issue goes beyond who is with or against Jesus – it goes to *what* is against Jesus. Those who follow Jesus must live as He did, no matter what the cost. Their attraction to Him must be like a strong magnet: they adhere to His values, act in His name, do good for others as He did.

Focused completely on His saving mission to bring about the kingdom of God, Jesus directly confronts human pettiness and sinfulness. He uses graphic examples to demand that disciples turn from whatever is inconsistent with acting in His name, with continuing His mission. Any behavior which causes us to sin or to lead others into sin must be cut off. Part

of a disciples’ work is to take on Jesus’ values, Jesus’ goodness. Being a disciple demands radical choices about how we live and relate to others. It means being as completely focused on Jesus’ saving mission as He was. It means that acting in His name is exactly that: doing as he would do. And Jesus never sinned.

Discipleship is decided by our *behavior* rather than by our being identified with a particular group or not. What is crucial to discipleship is how we act. Jesus uses extreme terms to tell us that we must turn from whatever is inconsistent with acting in His name. Any behavior which causes us to sin or to lead others into sin must be cut off. We are to root out the cause of sin in us at all costs – root out whatever is not consistent with our attraction to Who Jesus is.

What is at stake is “entering into the kingdom of God,” entering into fullness of Life. Any attitude which limits the Presence and power of the Holy Spirit must also be cut off. Being a disciple demands radical choices about how we live and relate to others. Being a disciple demands that we make radical choices about how we adhere to Jesus, act in His name, and draw others to Him as well.

#### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

Through our baptismal anointing we truly are prophets; all of us are commissioned to speak and do deeds in the Lord’s name. Thus baptism is more than initiation into a group – it is the transformation of ourselves into disciples of Christ who follow the Teacher by faithful service “in His name.” Faithful service is not expressed in occasional good deeds, but in ongoing

patterns of unselfish, life-giving behaviors. Faithful service is expressed in making our own the values and mission that attract us to Jesus in the first place.

As a follower of Christ, discipleship means doing something so great as volunteering for one of the liturgical ministries or so simple as taking the garbage out without being asked. It means that our words and actions are consistent with Jesus' Gospel values. It means that we are ruthless about choosing to cut out behaviors inconsistent with Jesus' values and gentle about choosing to do the works of the Teacher.

As you hear today's scripture passages, how have they affected your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

- The human pettiness and sinfulness I need to confront in myself is...
- I find myself distracted from Jesus and His mission when...by...Jesus calls me to refocus by...
- What I need to "cut off" in order to be a more faithful disciple is...What I need to "add in" is...

***About Liturgy: The Penitential Act***

If we could go back in time and be present at the celebration of the Eucharist during the first few centuries of the church (say, up until Charlemagne during the ninth century), one of the things that would strike us is that the celebration of Eucharist had much more lengthy intercessory prayer than it has today. In these earlier periods the beginning of the Eucharistic Liturgy included an extended list of petitions

which culminated in the Collect. The Collect "collected together" in a general formula all the prayers that had just been prayed.

In those earlier centuries the "Kyrie" (Lord, have mercy) belonged to the genre of intercessory prayer. It was used at the hours of the Divine Office as well as in the celebration of Eucharist. At this time the "Lord, have mercy" was a response to petitions called "tropes" that were most often presented in the form of a litany; the list of petitions would vary but usually included prayers for the whole church, the clergy, rulers, the people, the sick, benefactors, the poor, and for peace. Eventually in some churches the "Kyrie" stood alone and was simply repeated a number of times – anywhere from three to forty! Another development is that the tropes became an embellishment of the invocation "Lord or Christ." The "Kyrie" litany "is a chant by which the faithful acclaim the Lord and implore His mercy" (General Instruction to the Roman Missal, No. 52.).

The important point to remember is that the beginning of the celebration of Eucharist is a time for prayer. This is the time when we dispose ourselves toward God so that God's actions can take root in us and change us, so that our behaviors are more consistent with the vision and values of Jesus.

***Inquiry***

Tomorrow evening, Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Inquiry, the first stage of the RCIA, begins in the parish hall at 7:00 p.m. This is for all those who have questions about the church, our faith, what it means to be a disciple/follower of Jesus and who are perhaps thinking of

becoming a Roman Catholic Christian. This would also be appropriate for anyone who is returning to the practice of the faith after having been away for a period of time, long or short. If you know of anyone, family member, friends, or neighbors who may be thinking of or expressing questions about our faith, please invite them. Even better, bring them along!

### ***The Feast of St. Michael, The Archangel***

This coming Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of Police Officers. Please remember them in your prayers, thanking God for their vocation and praying for their safety, protection, and respect for their authority. We are blessed with a number of officers, from Antioch Police Department, Pittsburg Police Department, Brentwood Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

### ***Environment Help***

Beginning this coming Wednesday morning, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. we will begin the transformation of our worship space from the environment of Ordinary Time I to that of Ordinary Time II – Fall. Many hands are needed to do this and we invite all those who wish to be a part of creating our next seasonal environment to please join us. We usually have coffee, juice and breakfast pastries in the morning and lunch at noontime. I hope you will join us.

### ***The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila***

During our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning we join the members of our Filipino Community in honoring the first canonized saint from the Philippines, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila. A lite reception will follow in the parish hall. Many thanks to those who planned the liturgy, who proclaimed the scriptures and intercessions, brought up the Gifts, ushered, served as Adult Acolytes and Altar Servers, and who cantored and sang in the Choir.

### ***Blessing of the Animals – October 4<sup>th</sup>***

Next Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, in addition to being the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, is also the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. Accordingly, we will celebrate the Blessing of Animals at 12:00 Noon, following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Our friends from the animal kingdom should be leashed or in carriers.

### ***Night Walk Against Violence***

Our next Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday evening, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Antioch. We will gather at the church at 6:15 p.m. and the witness will begin at the intersection of E. 18<sup>th</sup> and Cavallo Road at 6:30 p.m. Each witness begins with an orientation, prayer and following the witness there is a brief reflection on what took place followed by a closing prayer. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

### ***Parish Feast Day***

Our parish patronal feast, St. Ignatius of Antioch, will be celebrated the weekend of October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on wearing RED to the liturgy you attend. Our Gala Dinner, "Wild is the Night"

takes place on Saturday evening, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pittsburg Yacht Club. You do not want to miss this great evening of fine dining, fellowship, entertainment, Live and Silent Auctions, dancing and music by The Summerset Band, conducted by **Jim Peddicord**. Please be sure to get your tickets from the table in the Gathering Plaza. Proceeds from this event benefit the parish General Operating Fund and carries us financially through Christmas the beginning of the New Year.

Then on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Parish Festival takes place in the tent. Games, the Holly Faire, and our International Food Court all lead up the Grand Raffle Drawing which takes place at 3:00 p.m. Raffle Ticket Books are also available at the table in the Gathering Plaza and we are profoundly grateful to all those who have either purchased or sold their initial book of tickets or who have sold multiple books of tickets.

#### *A New Storage Container*

As many of you noticed last weekend, a fourth storage container has been added to the area of the other three containers. The container is a Gift from one of our parishioners who wishes to remain anonymous. We are grateful for this gift which makes it possible to increase our storage capabilities. This container has been designated for the storage of items for the environment. We are also grateful to “RDJ” Construction (alias: **Rich Confetti, Don Benson, and Jose Palomino**) who received the container when it was delivered, leveled it, installed interior lighting, built storage shelves, and steps leading up to its doors.

#### *Work On The Pipe Organ*

Beginning Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, technicians from the Rodgers Organ Company, from Hillsboro, Oregon, will spend a week at the church working on our pipe organ. They will be assisted by “RDJ” Construction (**Rich Confetti, Don Benson, and Jose Palomino**). The work will consist of removing all the pipework, rewiring each pipe chest, and then installing a digital “Pipe Interface Manager” or “PIM” that will replace the previous analog technology with state-of-the-art digital technology. The pipework will then be placed back on each chest and tuned. The work will take one week to complete and is being paid for by an anonymous contribution. As a result of this upgrade, the pipe organ will continue to play for many decades to come without service/maintenance issues that have affected the previous analog system.

#### *Our Concert Series*

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us for two spectacular upcoming concerts:

Saturday, October 31, 8:00 p.m. **Don Pearson, Organist, accompanying the Silent Film, “Phantom of the Opera.”** Reception follows; free will offering to offset the cost of the reception.

Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. **Don Pearson, Organist, With Brass and Percussion**, in a concert of great works for Organ and Brass. Reception follows; free will offering to offset the cost of the reception.

# JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **NEW! Retreat Center Director— Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz**

Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center is seeking a Director. The director provides vision and strategic and operational leadership using strong management skills to support the vitality of the Villa, a ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

The Director should be a practicing Catholic and have at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience or certification in business or hospitality management. Experience should include certification in religious studies, spirituality, pastoral education or their equivalent. At least five years' experience is required in management and promoting/marketing a values-based organization, including employee management/supervision with experience in building and leading a team.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package including medical/dental, group life and disability coverage, a 401k plan, and a paid time off program. For immediate consideration, email your resume and cover letter to [jobs@snjmuson.org](mailto:jobs@snjmuson.org).

## **NEW! Accompanist – St. John Vianney, Walnut Creek**

*Debbie Mellin, Pastoral Associate for Administration 925-939-7911, ext. 103*  
[dmellin@sjvianney.org](mailto:dmellin@sjvianney.org)

St. John Vianney Parish in Walnut Creek is seeking an accompanist to play for three Masses each weekend and one day a week for two choir rehearsals. Holy Days, feast days, and other special events would also be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Applicants should have experience playing piano and organ in Catholic Mass settings (organ lessons available if necessary). Other qualifications include the following: excellent sight-reading skills, the proficiency to read and play standard

notation and lead sheets, 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 Debbie Mellin, see above.

## **St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County**

*Jessica Romeo 925-439-5060*  
[jessromeo@gmail.com](mailto:jessromeo@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County has several open positions, including Communications & Development Associate, Floating Assistant Manager, Driver and Security Guard, all in Pittsburg, and Store Manager and Store Clerk in Pleasant Hill. For details and more information, please contact Jessica Romeo, see above. Specific job announcements are available at these links:

**[Communications & Development Associate, Pittsburg](#)**  
**[Floating Assistant Manager, Pittsburg](#)**  
**[Driver, Pittsburg](#)**  
**[Security Guard, Pittsburg](#)**  
**[Store Manager, Pleasant Hill](#)**  
**[Store Clerk, Pleasant Hill](#)**

### *Thank You*

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean the church, parish hall, and bathrooms: **Jun Bajet, Reno Benasfre, Mercy Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, and Robert Goncalves.**

...and to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall on Sunday and throughout the week: **Mary Ewing and Harlan Young.**

...to **Karen Oliver** for decorating the kiosk for the Liturgical Ministries Faire and to **Harlan Young, Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Steve Andreatta, and Peter Degl'Innocenti** for being present at each liturgy to help with signups.