

**For The Bulletin of  
October 4, 2015**

**THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

***From Father Robert***

The longer form of today's gospel unfolds in two interrelated situations. The Pharisees approach Jesus to test Him about His stance concerning marriage and divorce; the disciples rebuke the people for bringing their children to Jesus. In both situations, God's intentions for human relationships are being thwarted. In both situations, Jesus upholds human relationships as fundamental and blessed by God. In this gospel, Jesus exposes the hardness of the Pharisees' hearts. This challenges us to look deep within our own hearts.

The context for this gospel is confrontation and the content is about divorce. But digging deeper into the text, we find that the reverberating message of the gospel is about hardness of hearts. The Pharisees show "hardness of heart" by putting the law of Moses ahead of the plan of God. Even the disciples show "hardness of hearts" in rebuking the children. The plan of God, as revealed in creation is the blueprint for creation's completion. "Hardness of hearts" cuts us off from the blueprint. Jesus always challenges human traditions when they diverge from action hindering our entering fully the life and blessing God offers us.

The world in which the Creator blessed marriage is the world before sin. The world in which Jesus and the Pharisees debate divorce is a world in which sin abounds, and so one must be directed by

laws. One purpose of law is to delineate clear parameters for making right choices. This is necessary in a world where sin and hard hearts cloud people's judgment and sometimes lead them to make selfish choices rather than self-giving choices. The Pharisees ask about a point of law and Jesus answers by pointing to God's intention. This gospel presents the tension between God's plan and sin, between the divine ideal and concessions to human weakness. Marriage is not an absolute in itself – being faithful to kingdom ideals is.

In the deepest recesses of our hearts, we all desire to live in union with one another as God intends. The gospel intimates that the kingdom of God belongs to those who yield "hardness of hearts" to the open embrace Jesus models. Just as the gospel moves from shortsighted confrontation over Mosaic laws of divorce to Jesus' tender embrace of little children, so must our lives move from our own shortsightedness to the wide embrace of God's ultimate plan – hearts turned toward God and each other in relationships that are holy.

***Living The Paschal Mystery***

God's design for all of creation is that it be harmonious and whole. Paradoxically, it's the rhythm of the paschal mystery – between dying and rising – that keeps us harmonious and whole. Dying to self means that our own selfish interests are not put ahead of the good of another – which promotes harmony. The new Life that always comes from self-giving is assign of wholeness. Always what stands in the way of harmony and wholeness is hardness of heart – our own or another's. The challenge is in the example of Jesus: embrace and bless even the little ones.

What will be our response to the gospel today?

- What helps me grow in healthy relationships is...I struggle in my relationships with others when...
- I am hard of heart when...What softens my heart is...
- I experience the tender embrace and blessing of Jesus when...

### ***About Liturgy: Lectionary Hermeneutic***

“Hermeneutic” is a word which means “interpretation.” The phrase “Lectionary hermeneutic” means that when the compiler of the Lectionary chose the particular passages for a given day, they had a particular interpretation in mind. The various choices are themselves a kind of interpretation of Sacred Scripture. As a result, the Lectionary isn’t just a shortened Bible; it has a built-in interpretive stance that has to do with the unfolding of the Liturgical Year. Sometimes a particular combination of readings might even lead us to interpret a passage of Scripture in a slightly different way from its context in the Bible. Liturgy is the context for the Lectionary and that celebration provides the interpretive clue. Today’s selection of readings is a good case in point.

The second creation account in Genesis which describes the relationship between husband and wife, the responsorial psalm which speaks of family blessings, and the question the Pharisees in the gospel put to Jesus about divorce would all tend to lead us to focus today on the relationship of husband and wife, on marriage and divorce, and this is certainly one interpretive direction to take. When we take into account the last verses of the gospel and where we are in Mark’s gospel, other interpretive stances

emerge, such as delving into the ramifications of “hardness of hearts” and how the kingdom of God is built on right relationships with God and each other.

### ***Bless of the Animals***

Today is also the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals. We will celebrate the Blessing of Animals at 12:00 Noon in the tent. You are welcome to bring your pets and we would request that they be either leashed or in carriers.

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

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place this coming Friday evening, October 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:15 p.m. at Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Antioch, and then walking to the intersection of Cavallo Road and E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street. We begin with an orientation followed by prayer. At the conclusion of the witness, we walk back to the church for a review of the event and closing prayer. The witness lasts approximately one hour and 30 minutes.

### ***The Gala Dinner and Parish Festival***

Be sure to get your tickets for this year’s annual Gala Dinner, “A Walk On The Wild Side” which is on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at Pittsburg Yacht Club. This is an evening of great fun, music, dancing, and dining. There is also a Live Auction. Then on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our patronal feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch and we invite everyone to wear RED for each of the liturgies that weekend. Following the Sunday liturgies, the parish festival takes place in the tent, beginning with breakfast served by our Knights of Columbus after the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist. There will be booths in the

tent with games, the Holly Faire, and the International Food Court. The Grand Raffle Drawing will take place at 3:00 p.m. Be sure to get your raffle tickets today and next weekend for the Grand Raffle as well as signing up to help with the festival by seeing the sign up sheets posted on the rolling kiosk in the Gathering Plaza.

### ***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.

### ***Antioch’s Women’s and Children’s Shelter***

At each liturgy on the weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Gary Kingsbury to speak at our liturgies about the proposed Women’s and Children’s Shelter here in Antioch. Brochures will be in the bulletin that weekend to explain its mission and how we can help make it a reality, beginning with prayer.

### ***All Saints and All Souls***

The weekend of October 31<sup>st</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, bring us the wonderful celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. Our weekend liturgy schedule remains the same and each liturgy will be celebrated with special festivity. Then on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. as usual and then in the evening with Sung Evening Prayer to commemorate all those whose deaths took place since last All Souls Day. A reception will follow in the parish hall to welcome the families of our parish and those whose Funeral Liturgies were celebrated in our church in the last year. Please be sure to get one of the All Souls’ envelopes on which to list your beloved death who will be remembered at each liturgy throughout the month of November. Envelopes will be found on the credenza. You are also invited to bring memorial photographs and mementos for the memorial tables which will be placed across the front of the church for the Evening Prayer liturgy. Each family who had a funeral

in our church within the last year will receive a commemorative candle at the conclusion of the liturgy. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be with us.

***Thank You***

...to those who cleaned the church and parish hall last Saturday morning: **Steve Rojek, Carole Miller, Reno and Thelma Benasfre, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Jun Bajet, and Rose Salamanca.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Gino Ramos, and Harlan Young.**

...to our Knights of Columbus who honored our local firefighters and Antioch Police Officers on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Guardian Angels, with lunch. The menu consisted of Barbecued Chicken, Baked Beans, Salad, Rolls/Butter, and Cookies.

The meal was prepared in our kitchen and delivered to each fire house and to the police station. On behalf of all of us, thank you to: **Bob Plurkowski, Dave Simpson, Phillip Rios, Sean Dunleavy, Bill Barbanica, Clem Bushman, Don Benson, Rich Confetti, Jack & Bob Goncalves, Bill Stuhldreier, and Ernie Ameral.**

***Santa Rosa Catholic Charities Gathers Donations for Fire Victims***

***Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa 707-528-8712***

Many people are suffering loss due to the tragic fires in Lake County. Many have also asked how to help. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa has been in regular contact with the Red Cross, county officials and other emergency aid agencies to coordinate

assistance. At present it appears that there is sufficient emergency shelter and supplies in the area. Clothing, food and other in-kind donations are NOT being accepted. Contributions of money are needed and welcome. To make a credit card donation over the phone to Catholic Charities Valley Fire Relief Fund, please contact Katie McCormick at 707528-8712, ext. 158 or mail your Donation specifying it to be used for the Valley Fire Relief Fund to: Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 4900, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

As of Tuesday, September 15, 10:00 am, St. Joseph Church, Middletown; Our Lady of the Lakes Mission, Loch Lomond; and Our Lady of the Pines Mission, Cobb are all standing. For these blessings we are truly thankful as we continue to pray for all those affected by the Valley Fire.

***CRS Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis and How You Can Help***

***Marc McKimmey, CRS Diocesan Coordinator 510-768-3176***

***[mmckimmey@cceb.org](mailto:mmckimmey@cceb.org)***

***[Crs.org/SyrianRefugees](http://Crs.org/SyrianRefugees)***

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is working with over 700,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees in surrounding countries by providing relief services which include food, shelter, rental and medical assistance, and programs to help children overcome trauma. CRS is also responding to the growing migrant crisis in Europe by working in partnership with the Church in Greece, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Serbia to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, sleeping bags and mats, hygiene packages, and clean water.

For more information and up-to-date field reports on CRS's response to these crises, visit their website.

Pope Francis has called on every Catholic parish and religious community in Europe to take in one refugee family. Response in the United States may be less direct but still significant.

What can you do?

- Begin with prayer, such as the [prayer for refugees](#).
- Keep informed about the developments in the refugee crisis by going to the [CRS website](#).
- Advocate for expanding U.S. policy regarding accepting refugees from Syria and Iraq, providing more funding to refugees in neighboring countries, and exercising leadership for diplomatic efforts to end the wars, particularly in Syria.

Currently the U.S. is accepting very few Syrians. Contact members of congress and receive action alerts by visiting [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#), a joint project of CRS and the U.S. Catholic bishops.

- [Donate](#) to help CRS continue to expand its response to the refugee crisis.

For questions or further information, please contact Marc McKimmey, CRS Diocesan Coordinator, see above.

***Volunteer to Help Reunite Central American Families***  
***Friday, October 9, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm***  
***433 Jefferson Street, Oakland***

***Jason Sullivan-Halpern, Volunteer Coordinator*** 510-768-3166  
[jsullivanhalpern@cceb.org](mailto:jsullivanhalpern@cceb.org)  
[www.cceb.org](http://www.cceb.org)

Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) is seeking English-Spanish bilingual volunteers for their ***The Central American Minors (CAM) Refugee/Parole Program***, which helps reunite Central American children and youth with their parents residing in the United States by allowing these parents to apply for refugee status for their children in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Volunteers will be completing CAM Affidavit of Relationship forms for qualifying parents at monthly clinics in Oakland and Richmond. Contact Jason Sullivan-Halpern, Volunteer Coordinator, see above.

The next required training for new CAM volunteers will be at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm on Friday, October 9 at CCEB's Oakland Service Center.

***Human Trafficking Awareness Event***  
***Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 pm***  
***St. John Vianney Parish, Mullen Commons, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek***

St. John Vianney Parish in Walnut Creek and the Soroptimist International of 24-680 will host a Human Trafficking Awareness event on October 21 at 7:00 pm. The event will address Pope Francis' statement that "The human person ought never to be sold or bought as if he or she were a commodity" and the role Catholics play in preventing human trafficking. There

will be a video, speakers on labor trafficking and Super Bowl 50, care of victims, and law enforcement. Free event. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Jessica Romeo 925-439-5060  
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**

***A Warning From the Diocese***

A report has come to the Chancery Office about a man presenting himself as a priest.

Manuel Calderon has been going house to house, passing himself off as a catholic priest, collecting money for doing home weddings, baptisms, healing services, prayers for the sick, etc. He dresses in clerics and brings communion wafers with him. He tells people that he has no connection with the Roman Catholic priesthood, but that he is a

catholic priest, stressing the small “c” but explaining that it makes no difference because “catholic is catholic.” He claims to have had some connection with St. Elizabeth parish in Oakland.

Currently he is known to have been active in Berkeley and Oakland. Obviously, he has no authorization or faculties from the Diocese of Oakland. If you encounter him in any way, please contact the Diocese of Oakland immediately at 510-893-4711.

***Our Fall Environment***

Many thanks to the wonderful members of our Environment Committee who prepared our new Fall Environment for the final weeks of Ordinary Time this past Wednesday. Our thanks to: **Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Cecille Mirano, Norma Villegas, Erika Fernandes, Carole Miller, Peter Degl’Innocenti, Ruth Beck, Nancy DiMaggio, Dorothy O’Connor, Lorraine Lohmeier, Theresa Nelms, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Harlan Young, and Patricia Britton.** Special thanks to **Maryann Peddicord** for preparing the Morning Coffee, to **Frances Rojek** for the Breakfast Pastries, fruit, and juices and to **Theresa Nelms** for providing lunch.

The present environment will remain in place until Thanksgiving Day and then we will mark the beginning of the new Liturgical Year with the Season of Advent and its own unique environment.

