

**For The Bulletin Of  
October 11, 2014**

**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN FALL'S  
ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

Who of us wouldn't want to be the man in the gospel who approaches Jesus with the question about what he must "do to inherit eternal life"? Jesus does more than affirm his faithful living of the commandments: "looking at him," Jesus "loved him." Wouldn't we all want that look? Wouldn't we all want to have such concrete affirmation that Jesus loves us? Then again, maybe we wouldn't want to be that man. Jesus clearly tells him the cost of following Him: he must give up everything. The man "went away sad. Are we not also sometimes sad at the demands of being faithful followers of Jesus/ What does it mean to give up everything?"

The man must have had an inkling that keeping the commandments was not enough, or else he never would have approached Jesus with his question about how to inherit eternal life. In spite of his faithfulness in keeping god's commandments and his being loved by Jesus, the man nevertheless had a divided heart: "he went away sad, for he had many possessions." The man needed to turn his focus from earthly life to eternal life, from possessions (and, yes, even God's commandments" to single-heartedly following Jesus to salvation. Where is our heart? Are we overjoyed at Jesus' glance of love, or are we sad because it is too much?

Giving our all to follow Jesus doesn't mean that we literally sell everything;

we all have family and social obligations that make having things a necessity. Jesus is saying that we can't let possessions (or anything else, for that matter) divide our hearts. Too often possessions possess us; we are called to let go so only God possesses us. Riches are a stumbling block to following Jesus when they command our attention so that we are not turned toward doing right – which is what following Jesus means.

The man in the gospel turned away from Jesus because he couldn't let go. It's not impossible to enter the kingdom of God because "all things are possible for God." But it is hard to enter the kingdom of God because all too often our hearts are divided – we want to let go and follow Jesus at the same time we want to hang onto our possessions and, indeed, even to their commanding our attention and focus of life. Divided hearts just won't do. We can't have everything we want and give all to follow Jesus at the same time. The very hard demands of following Jesus include not swerving from what is central to us – allowing ourselves to be possessed by Jesus fully and completely so that we receive the hundredfold promised those who are faithful: "eternal life."

*Living The Paschal Mystery*

The "rich man" who couldn't "give up" his wealth was not ready to follow Jesus. Following Jesus leads to the cross – where everything is given up! Following Jesus goes beyond keeping the commandments to paschal living. This means that "giving up" is more than dispossessing ourselves of what we have. It means that we make our very lives available – this is what following Jesus truly entails. Jesus' teaching about giving up everything is very hard and

demanding, but this is the only way to receive a hundredfold now and in eternal life. This is another description of discipleship, of paschal living: “giving up” is dying, receiving a hundredfold now is experienced in terms of already sharing in the glory of eternal life. Now this is topsy-turvy: by giving up all, we gain everything!

Having heard the challenge of today’s scriptures, what will be our response?

- My heart is divided when...
- I find it hardest to follow Jesus when...
- What I have given up to follow Jesus is... What I have yet to give up is...

***About Liturgy: The Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gifts***

The entire Eucharistic liturgy is an invitation to empty ourselves, to dispossess ourselves of anything that stands in the way of our being transformed more perfectly into the Body of Christ. One concrete symbol of this dispossession takes place at the Preparation of the Altar and the Presentation of the Gifts. This procession is more than a practical way to get the bread and wine on the altar; if this were the case, they could simply be placed there by an altar minister after the Universal Prayer (The General Intercessions); which, for simplicity, is often what happens during a weekday liturgy, but not here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. The Gifts are presented by representatives of the assembly at every liturgy – weekend and weekday.

The procession with the bread and wine is symbolic of our own journey from this life to eternal life when we will stand at the messianic banquet “in the age to

come.” The bread and wine are also symbolic of ourselves; just as the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so are we transformed into more perfect members of that Body. Finally, when the gifts of the community include food (as happens at each weekend liturgy here), necessities, and money for the poor, this is wonderfully symbolic of our willingness to “give to the poor” and puts Jesus’ invitation to follow Him into visible practice. It is a concrete way for us to show our willingness not to be possessed by our riches, not to have divided hearts, but to give of ourselves, emptying ourselves to better follow Jesus with undivided hearts. Therefore, the Presentation of the Gifts is symbolic of our own desire for dispossession – for having the undivided heart needed to follow Jesus.

***Festival Weekend***

Next weekend, we will celebrate our parish feast day with the Feast in honor of **St. Ignatius of Antioch**. Please wear **RED** in order to add to the festivity of the liturgies. We wear red because St. Ignatius of Antioch was martyred for the faith. At each liturgy, there will be a Procession with Incense as we honor our parish patron.

Saturday evening will see the Gala Dinner at the Pittsburg Yacht Club, beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, please do so today at the table in the Gathering Plaza. This is a wonderful event with music, a Live Auction, entertainment, and fine dining.

Then on Sunday, we will have the festival beginning with breakfast in the tent following the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist,

provided by our Knights of Columbus. Following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, the festival will offer a variety of international foods, games, Bingo, activities for the children, and the highlight of the afternoon: The Grand Raffle Drawing. Once again, please be sure to turn in your raffle tickets and pick up more to sell before next weekend's drawing. Thank you for your support and helping us make this year's festival a success.

### ***Parking Lot Project***

The parking lot has received some much needed maintenance from September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was completely re-sealed and re-stripped. This was the second of two major capital improvements to take place this year, the other being the re-roofing of the narthex and office area. Thank you for your support and patience while the parking lot project took place. It's now like brand new and will be in good shape for the next five to eight years.

### ***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 two anonymous

contributions. 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.

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 p.m. **Sung Evening Prayer In Honor of St. Cecilia, Patron Saint of Church Music.** This event is being done in conjunction with a national celebration of St. Cecilia facilitated by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, always held on the Sunday nearest her feast day. On this day, all across America, churches, choirs, and instrumentalists will combine to offer concerts and services to celebrate the "St. Cecilia Sing." We invite you to join us for this wonderful musical experience that gathers us as a family in prayer and honors St. Cecilia. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

### ***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 dead 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.

### ***Inquiry Continues***

All those who are interested in learning more about our church, or who are returning after having been away for some time, or who would like to become members through the Sacraments of Initiation (The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) are welcome to join us Monday evening, October 12<sup>th</sup>, in the parish hall at 7:00 p.m. The sessions last an hour and a half and are a wonderful opportunity to ask any questions in a comfortable setting and to dialogue with one another about our faith and our following of Jesus. We have expanded the team this year to include the following parishioners: **Frances Rojek, Fran Barbanica, Jeanne Riley, Alicia Solano, Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Alicia Perez, Deacon Gary Hack, and myself.** For more information, please contact **Frances Rojek, Director of Faith Formation,** at the parish office.

### ***Thanksgiving***

This year our Thanksgiving Morning Liturgy takes place on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. This is always one of the most beautiful and powerful liturgies celebrated in our church. In an environment that speaks of the harvest and all that for which we are grateful, we gather to hear God's Word and celebrate Holy Eucharist. One of the traditions of this day is inviting a parishioner to give the Reflection and this year that honor has fallen to **Kelly and Christi Ouimet,** the parents of Molly, Patrick and Matthew. Please mark your calendars accordingly and plan to be with us.

### *Thank You*

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who serve as Office Receptionists/Office Administration Monday through Friday and who do so much to help out with everything that happens in the parish office: **Yvette Young, Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, Rowena Cayaban, Lorraine Lohmeier, Nancy Newton, Melodye Costanza, Estrella Rusk and Joe Fanfa.**

...to our faithful Knights of Columbus who provide parking lot security each weekend: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, and Robert Goncalves.**

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend and the week ahead: **Reno Benasfre, Steve Rojek, Angela Bueno, and Rose Salamanca.**

...to our equally faithful and committed volunteer parishioners who care for and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Gino Ramos, Geri Abaya, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young.**

### *Catholic Charities*

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is hosting a free citizenship event October 17th at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. In response to Bishop Barber's invitation to "welcome the stranger" the Cathedral will open its doors for what promises to be our largest citizenship workshop of the year. For many, becoming a US citizen is the fulfillment of a dream after a long immigrant journey. It is important that we help eligible people become US citizens and fulfill that dream. If you want to attend, please register at <http://ebnatz.org/wp/register/>. If you are interested in volunteering for the

event, please contact Jason Sullivan-Halpern at [jsullivanhalpern@cceb.org](mailto:jsullivanhalpern@cceb.org) or complete our online application at <http://www.cceb.org/involved/online-volunteer-form/>. For more information contact: Christopher Martinez at (510) 439-4261 or [cmartinez@cceb.org](mailto:cmartinez@cceb.org).

### *From Brian McCoy, Business Manager*

The coming of the Fall season brings our annual Hospitality Sundays to a close. The first Sundays of each month from May to October are designated as Hospitality Sunday. Various ministries and parish organizations graciously step forward to host these fellowship opportunities. Thank you to **Lee Oliver** for coordinating the 2015 season and thank you to the following parish groups that hosted this year: Young Ladies Institute (May), Social Events (June), Knights of Columbus (July), Catholic Daughters of the Americas (August), SPRED and Family to Family Ministries (September), Rosary Group and Divine Mercy Devotion (October).

### *An Update On Lorraine Lohmeier – As of Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>*

I visited Lorraine in the hospital on Monday morning and celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick with her. She had surgery on Saturday which was very successful in repairing her nose and facial fractures. **She did not lose any teeth in the process.** Her upper jaw did have to be repaired. She did have a tracheotomy in order to do the surgery but it was removed by Monday morning. The doctors felt that she was doing so well that she could be either home or at the home of her children by the end of the week. The family is requesting no phone calls or visits until they let us know Lorraine is ready. Please continue to keep her close in prayer and you may either mail in or drop Get Well cards to the parish office which we will take to her.

