

**For The Bulletin Of
October 25, 2015**

**THE 30TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Today's gospel is filled with movement, energy, and drive. The verbs describing Bartimaeus's actions say everything about faith, encountering Jesus, and choosing to follow Him. Each verb, each action word says so much beyond itself.

He cried out: Bartimaeus sought Jesus' attention. He hoped for what – a few coins? Maybe. But probably more. He called Jesus “Son of David,” a messianic reference. He no doubt recognized Jesus for more than simply an itinerant preacher. For Bartimaeus, Jesus was the One Who could save him – from his blindness? Yes, but much more.

He kept calling: Bartimaeus was persistent. He did not let a crowd's rebuke keep him from calling out again. He knew what he wanted. He was going to encounter Jesus and present himself. He had trust that Jesus would “have pity” on him.'

He threw aside his cloak: Did Bartimaeus think he wouldn't need it anymore? More likely, the cloak would get in his way, slow down his effort to get close to Jesus. Bartimaeus is a man on a mission! He knows what he wants, he knows how to get it, he knows Who will grant it.

He sprang up and came to Jesus: Bartimaeus is decisive; he doesn't amble, tarry, or hesitate. He leaps to

encounter Jesus. Without this personal approach, personal relationship, personal engagement Bartimaeus simply remains a beggar. With an encounter with Jesus, he becomes so much more.

He stated his request: In such simple words does Bartimaeus bare his heart to Jesus: “Master, I want to see.” The Greek text is *Rabbouni* – teacher. Bartimaeus comes to Jesus for more than sight – he wants Jesus the Teacher to grant him insight.

He received his sight: Now able to see, Bartimaeus could well go independently on his merry way. After all, Jesus even tells him to “Go your way.” If all Bartimaeus received was physical sight, that is probably what he would have done. However, Bartimaeus received more than sight: “your faith has saved you.” Saved him from begging? Saved him from himself? Saved for...?

He followed Jesus: Having encountered Jesus, Bartimaeus could not go his own way. His encounter with Jesus formed a bond, a relationship with Jesus that Bartimaeus chose not to weaken but instead to deepen. Instead of going his own way, he chose Jesus' way.

Such need, such urgency, such conviction did Bartimaeus have! These verbs describe Bartimaeus's faith-in-action, his deepening relationship with Jesus. Faith is the insight and cause of action. So must it be for us.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Without persistence in prayer and seeking encounters with Jesus, it will be impossible for us to follow Him faithfully. Encounters with Jesus in prayer keeps our relationship to Him

growing, keeps our relationship with Him healthy and strong. The paschal mystery rhythm of dying and rising plays itself out in many ways – this Sunday in a rhythm of faith and action. In practical, everyday terms this means that at times we are *doing* our faith – reaching out to those around us in need. At other times we are *being* our faith – taking time to savor our relationship with God.

There are only four more weeks left in this Liturgical Year that has been 2015. It is not too early to begin reflecting on our individual growth in faith over the past year. What have I learned about myself and my faith? What difference have the scripture passages made in my life? How has my participation in Sunday Eucharist helped me to grow in my relationship to Jesus? Has my discipleship become more active? Do I understand more fully what it means to be a servant? What have today's scriptures revealed to me?

- I am like Bartimaeus when...
- When I cry out in prayer, I ask for...Jesus answers me by...
- Faith is the insight and cause of my actions when...

About Liturgy: Petitions During Liturgy

By now, all of us are familiar with having petitions in the Liturgy, especially in the form of the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful). We are familiar with crying out to God out of our need. This is an ancient custom, and in the early history of the church, petitions abounded in several places during the liturgy, sometimes becoming quite lengthy. Originally, one form of the *Kyrie* included a litany of petitions to which the “Lord, have mercy” was a

common response. We still have petitions in our Eucharistic prayers for both the living and the dead. One interesting form of petitions is called “diptychs” which are lists of individuals mentioned right in the liturgy – martyrs, yes, but we think some were even living benefactors. An example of this still remaining in our contemporary liturgy is the list of women and men martyrs that are part of Eucharistic Prayer I. Also, we pray by name for the Bishop of Rome, the Diocesan Bishop, and all the ordained and laity.

Some people have grumbled about the constant petitions during the liturgy, especially that there seems to be so much repetition – we are praying for the same things all the time. One response to this attitude is to consider the blind man of today's gospel: God might not seem to hear all our prayers, but persistence reminds us of how utterly dependent upon God we are.

Perhaps one solution which can become good personal practice would be to make the general intentions very much our own prayer. In this way, even general intercessions which seem similar or repetitious can take on individuality and freshness.

Rite of Reception, Profession of Faith, and First Eucharist

Last evening during our 5:00 p.m. Eucharist we celebrated the Rite of Reception, Profession of Faith, and First Eucharist for **Kim Dicker and Vince Augusta**. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!

Antioch Shelter

At each of our liturgies this weekend we welcome **Gary Kingsbury** to speak

about the proposed Women's and Children's Shelter here in Antioch. Brochures are in the bulletin to explain its mission and how we can help make it a reality, beginning with prayer. Welcome, Gary!

Our Concert Series

You do not want to miss the next in the series of Fall Concerts which takes place this coming Saturday evening, October 31st, "All Hallows Eve," when our very own **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, accompanies the Silent Film Classic, "The Phantom of the Opera," at 8:00 p.m. The film will be shown on a cinema-sized screen and the accompaniment is completely improvised (played without composed accompaniment!).

Following the screening/concert, a reception will be held in the parish hall with "frightening things to eat" and "horrific things to drink!" A free will offering will be received to help offset the cost of the reception and to support our Music Ministry program.

All Saints and All Souls

Next weekend, October 31st, November 1st, and Monday, November 2nd, 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, Monday morning, November 2nd, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, All Souls Day, 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.

Also, our Book of Remembrance will be available in the Baptistry beginning today to list the names of your beloved dead who will be remembered in all of our liturgies throughout the month of November.

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.

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 26th, 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.

Brass and Organ Concert

The next in the series of Fall Concerts takes place on Friday evening, November 13th, in a program of great works for Brass and Organ. Brass players (trumpets, trombones, French horns, and Tuba) join our very own **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence** in a concert of some of the greatest compositions for both Brass Instruments and Organ. You will not want to miss this concert! It begins at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in our parish hall where you will be able to meet and thank the performers. A free will offering will be received to help defray the cost of both the reception and the brass players.

Thanksgiving

This year our Thanksgiving Morning Liturgy takes place on Thursday, November 26th, 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.

Thanksgiving Baskets

One of the great traditions of our parish is the preparation of Thanksgiving Baskets. Parishioners are invited to make use of the list of items for the basket that is in the bulletin, do the shopping, decorate a box with the items, and then bring the box to one of the liturgies on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which this year is the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 21st and 22nd.

The Thanksgiving Baskets will then be distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society to needy families on Monday, November 23rd. Turkeys will be added to each box.

Beginning last year, we also added fresh vegetables from our Community Garden in addition to the canned vegetables on the purchase list. Fresh, grown broccoli will once again be added to each basket this year. Our thanks to **Catherine Vidaurri** for tending to the broccoli as it grows.

This is a wonderful way to teach your children about giving to others, especially at the holidays. Take them to any one of our area markets and let them use the list to find the items listed. Then let them decorate a box with Thanksgiving themes. Be sure to share with them how important it is to think of and respond to the needs of those less fortunate than we. Let this be a tradition that they share with their families when they move into adulthood.

Thank you to all of you who will participate in this major outreach of our parish.

Blessing of Veterans

At each liturgy on the weekend of November 7th and 8th, we will offer a special blessing for all those who are veterans of military service to our country. Former Navy, Marine, Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard personnel will be invited to come forward and be recognized for their service and then receive a special blessing in gratitude and recognition. This will be a part of our Veteran's Day observance which takes place on November 11th.

Environment Help

You are invited to assist the Environment Committee in removing the Fall Environment and installing the environment for Advent on Friday, November 27th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Many hands will be needed. We have a great time together and coffee and breakfast pastries are provided. Please put the date and time on your calendar and plan to be with us.

Ticket Packet \$300 Raffle Winning Ticket

When you picked up your ticket packages for the Grand Raffle this year, each packet contained 3 chances for a \$300 raffle. The 3 chances were attached to a blue index card with instructions. The winning number drawn at the festival last Sunday was **411783**. If this is your number, please contact the parish office.

From the Building Committee

Here is a brief summary of Building Committee activity since the last report to the parish in early August.

On August 17, 2015 representatives of the Building Committee and City of Antioch Planning and Engineering Departments met to discuss City Requirements for the Parish Hall Project. The meeting allowed us to introduce ourselves and to provide the City with an informal update regarding our plans. We were told that the more involved this project becomes the more detailed the review process will be. For example, building only the parish hall may only require a design review, especially if it is used only for activities that are currently held in the church and our existing hall. On the other hand, a more robust project with buildings for classrooms used on a regular basis during business hours would require a more detailed design review and a use permit. A public hearing would also be required. A multi-building project might also require modifications to Contra Loma Blvd. to include entrance and exit approach lanes with a break in the median strip to permit access into and/or out of the parking lot.

In their second quarter financial report to the parish, the Finance Council reported that we intended to proceed with the Parish Hall portion of our building plan. The hall gives us the most flexible and functional space for our ministries and provides us with the potential of generating income from the use of the space to assist with maintenance and upkeep

The only information in the City files were the design and permit drawings submitted back in 2006. We informed the City that our planned development plans have been significantly reduced.

The City requested a brief written project update along with a sketch showing the proposed location of the 8 to 9,000 square foot building. The Building Committee prepared and submitted the requested material on September 25.

For your information, these documents are posted on the parish website. Just follow the Building Committee link on the "MORE" page. In their response, the City posed no additional questions and requested another meeting when we are able to provide additional project detail where we will then be able to discuss and confirm the required approval process for the new project.

The next steps for the Building Committee include (1) following up on the report furnished to the Diocese back in May regarding our project to confirm our approval to proceed and (2) restarting the search for project funding grants.

Thanks to your generosity, the Building Fund continues to grow. In our May report to the Diocese, the fund balance was \$746,960. In our August report to the parish, the fund balance was \$778,079. The balance as of October 8, 2015 is \$795,399.

Thank You, Knights of Columbus

A big **THANK YOU** to the following Brothers and their families for assisting in this year's Tootsie Roll Drive to help those with Intellectual Disabilities:

Steve Rojek, Brian McCoy, Peter Degl'Innocenti, Alfred Madoshi, Jose Perez, Daniel Womack, Tony Burgarino, Gail Burgarino, Bill Barbanica, Kenny Lane, Leo Garcia, Jose Palomino, Gino Ramos, Dwayne

Eubanks, Romeo Quiambao, Frank Palermo, Stan Stanek, Bill Stuhlreyer, Jesus Pena, Oscar Jovel, Dave Costanza, Richard Murray, Rich Confetti, Ron France, Tom Bilskemper, Sean Dunleavy, Mike Clark, Nick Suarez, Chip Sharpe, Terry Marinas, Ryan Marinas, Mike Manalac, Antonio Quintanilla, Pat McConnell, Steven Rojek, Charlie Mirano, Forrest Towe, Hugo Quintanilla, Hector Quintanilla, Rob Laxner, Clem Bushman, Albert Nevado, and Kelly Ouimet.

With their help, we raised \$2481 over our three day event. After expenses, 100% of the money collected will go to our selected charities to help those with Intellectual Disabilities. You have all shown that Charity remains as one of the Knights core values that we can be proud of as we work to help others who are not as fortunate.

This year's **Golden Tootsie Roll** award goes to **Stan Stanek**. Stan worked the most shifts, with a total of six hours served. Great job done by all!

The New Icon of St. Ignatius of Antioch

At the conclusion of our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist last Sunday, we solemnly blessed and dedicated a new Icon for the Light Well in the Narthex. The Icon was created by Iconographer **Pavel Tikmirov**, from West Sacramento. At each liturgy, our parishioners were able to come forward to venerate it before it was enthroned in the Light Well.

I am very pleased to share with you that it is a Memorial given by **Cynthia**

Cardinale in Loving Memory of her parents, William and Consuelo Boschke. On behalf of all of us, I thank Cynthia for her generosity in making this latest Icon possible for our church.

Thank You, Y.M.I.

Last weekend, **Rob Laxner**, one of the Officers from Sadoc Council, NO. 59, Y.M.I., presented our parish with a donation in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). On behalf of all of us, I thank the members of our local Y.M.I. for this very generous donation.

Thank You

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain our church each week: **Steve Rojek, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, Reno Benasfre, Thelma Benasfre, Angela Bueno, and Mency Osborne.**

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

...to our volunteer parishioners who faithfully serve as Office Receptionists each week: **Yvette Young, Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, and Rowena Cayaban.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who provide parking lot security each weekend: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, and Robert Goncalves.**

From Father Tom Bonacci, CP

The daily News is more than bleak. Attempts at voter suppression in the

United States, increasing racial tensions, continuing turmoil in the Middle East, stabbings in the streets of Jerusalem, Russian military action in Syria, ISIL's growing influence in Gaza, immigration debates, and the refugee crisis in Europe all cause an overwhelming sense of concern if not despair. Yet, we hope. Interfaith Spirituality and Practice is a serious attempt to confront the negatives that afflict our society, world, and selves. We interpret that negativity seeking a sense of direction in the seeming chaos and instability.

Consider:

First, the visit of Pope Francis to the Americas in general and the United States in particular caused a surge in our willingness and ability to hope. As people across the spectrum of society reached out to embrace Francis, they revealed their longing for peace born of justice. Suddenly we felt the depth and joy of what it means to be a civil society based on mutuality, respect, and the care of the common good.

Second, as the Parliament for the World Religions gathers in Salt Lake City, Utah, (October 15 - 19, 2015), over four thousand women, men, and children from all over the World celebrate the splendor of what it means to seek the Divine and discern the humane. Now more than ever, the ethic of compassion is needed. This moral standard established by the Golden Rule is not a lofty idea but an ethical imperative for the present moment.

Finally, there is you and I. Each and every one of us must rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of what is right and just regardless of the personal cost.

We must become the peace we seek. Let disappointment become passion from which vision emerges. Do not be afraid of your inner voice and wisdom. Have the courage to practice peace in the conflicts and tensions of daily life. Be no one's victim. Rather, let your inner light shine in the oftentimes darkness of life.

We remember the courage, forgiveness, and commitment of so many who have been subjected to untold violence. As leaders like Pope Francis risk their lives in the pursuit of peace, as people all over the World seek the justice and understanding that makes peace possible, may we rise in this moment to hear the cry of the poor, forgotten, hated, feared, and rejected. May we hear the cry of the Earth. As Pope Francis encourages:

“Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!”

Misericordiae Vultus #15

Peacefully,

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.

Director, The Interfaith Peace Project

Festival Weekend Thank You

Last weekend, we once again celebrated our Parish Festival, beginning with the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening at the Pittsburg Yacht Club and then with each of our liturgies, and finally Breakfast served by our Knights of Columbus, the activities, games, Holly Faire, AHS Jazz Group “The Chromatics,” Bingo, and the Grand Raffle Drawing in the Tent.

Thank you to all those who participated in any way! I want to begin by thanking those who planned and prepared the Gala Dinner: **Pittsburg Yacht Club, Dorothy O’Connor, Joe and Theresa Nelms, Steve and Frances Rojek, Will and Catherine Avitabile, David and Barbara Jackson, Dave and Melodye Costanza, Carole Miller, Jim and Maryann Peddicord, “The Nite Notes” directed by Jim Peddicord, Bev Iacona, Karen Oliver, Annette Romani, Crytal Stahl, Lorraine Lohmeier, Chip and Jane Sharpe, Carla McBrayer, and Kathleen Clarke.**

Thank you to all those who came earlier in the week to set up and prepare the tent; to those who oversaw the International Food Booths (Filipino, Italian, American, Mexican and Cajun), the Baked Goods Booth, the Drinks Booth, the Holly Faire, and Children’s Activities. Thank you to all our parishioners who donated supplies of any kind and those who helped take everything down at the Festival’s conclusion.

