

**For The Bulletin Of
February 7, 2016**

**THE FIFTH AND LAST
SUNDAY OF WINTER'S
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

We catch a ball. We catch a train. We catch a cold. We catch a meaning. We catch a sly glance. We catch a lot in our everyday living. And, yes, sometimes we “catch” people. A fiancée might be told she got a good “catch.” “Catch” means to intercept and hold. Don’t drop! Hang on! What a marvelous “catch” Jesus makes in today’s gospel. Jesus such a bigger catch than Peter! After fishing all night and catching nothing, Peter obeys Jesus, putting out his boat and nets once again. He makes a great catch of fish. Even more, he comes to a great insight about himself. Encounter with Jesus leads Peter to see himself as he really is (“I am a sinful man”) and to become what he is not yet: a follower of Jesus participating in His saving mission. Jesus “caught” Peter. He will “catch” us, too. All we need to do is heed Jesus’ word.

What precipitated the radical response of the first disciples who “left everything and followed” Jesus? Clearly, Jesus’ words and actions. To fishermen who had labored fruitlessly all night, Jesus says try again and leads them to a great catch. To a sinful Peter who considers himself unworthy of Jesus’ company, Jesus says follow me and transforms his life’s purpose. Jesus’ words are powerful words that bind us to Himself.

Jesus “taught the crowds.” The miracle of the great catch makes concrete the

good news of Jesus’ teaching: God’s intervention overturning the futility of mere human work, the superabundance of God’s actions on our behalf, the invitation to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. The miracle of the catch of fish is the bridge to another miracle: hearing the Good News and living it. The disciples’ willingness to be caught enabled them to see more deeply into the truth of Jesus’ teaching. It’s the power of Jesus’ good news that drew them to follow Him. Today, we are the “catch” that makes the Good News visible when we allow God to work in and through us.

Following Jesus can hardly be an impulse decision, although the gospel account might make it seem that way. Between the miracle of the great catch and the disciples leaving everything to follow Jesus stands Peter’s recognition that he is “a sinful man.” Their encounter with Jesus helped the disciples see themselves for who they were and opened up the willingness to change their life course. They would still be fishermen – but now their catch would be human beings to whom they would tell the Good News of God’s presence. Jesus is the net God lowers into the sea of humanity, knowing full well there will be a great catch.

Living The Paschal Mystery

For most of us, Jesus does not come in dramatic and miraculous ways and bid us to follow Him, but in the ordinary events of daily living. The gospel invites us to look at the simple ways we live the Gospel to indicate the ways we have changed our purpose in life to follow Jesus. For example, in the generosity of so many volunteers, in the faithfulness of husbands and wives, in the unselfishness of pastoral workers, in

the uncomplaining suffering of the sick, in the gracious wisdom of the elderly we see faithful followers of Jesus living His teachings. Our “yes” response is to imitate these good behaviors and by doing so we are faithful followers. Living the paschal mystery means we respond to God in these little, everyday things. The astonishing thing about this Good News is that we are all made worthy followers because God calls. We allow ourselves to be caught.

During this brief, four week and two day season of Winter’s Ordinary Time, how has the Word of God, the Word of Jesus “caught” you?

- I recognize my sinfulness when...This leads me to...
- I find it easiest to hear Jesus’ words of invitation when...I find it easiest to heed them when...
- Jesus “caught” me when...by...to...

About Liturgy – “Lord, I am not worthy...”

At every celebration of Holy Eucharist, our response to the invitation to Holy Communion includes the words, “Lord, I am not worthy.” This Sunday’s gospel challenges us to utter these words not simply as a confession of sinfulness or a way to debase our own dignity as daughters and sons of God, but as a simple statement of recognizing our own status as creatures before god’s all-powerful and divine holiness. The amazing generosity of Jesus self-offering of His Body and Blood for our nourishment and drink is that God doesn’t focus on our unworthiness but raises us up to share in divinity. Holy Communion should always be a kind of wake-up call in which we praise and thank God for the call to holiness, and

also resolve to be faithful to God’s call to continue Jesus’ mission. Sharing in God’s holiness is also sharing in God’s mission.

Today

- Kickoff for this year’s Bishop’s Appeal
- Rite of Welcome at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist for Julianna Costanza
- Commissioning of New Lectors at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Ash Wednesday and The Beginning of Lent

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10th. For the convenience of our parishioners, we have scheduled four liturgies that day:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Word, Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word, Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer, Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

The offering at each liturgy on Ash Wednesday is designated for our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg as a way for our parish to support Catholic School Education. Our goal of financial support for them in 2016 is once again \$10,000.

In today’s bulletin you will find a brochure to introduce you to Lent in our parish this year. It lists special times of prayer, education, and spirituality as well as the times for our Deanery

celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. Please be sure to take on home with you.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry

Once again this year our Knights of Columbus will be offering their signature Lenten Friday Fish Fry each Friday, beginning this Friday, February 12th. Fish Frys will take place each Friday beginning at 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and there will be “Take Out” as well as “Dining In.” For those who “Dine In” Bingo will be played and who knows what other exciting surprises await us!

All proceeds benefit the charitable programs of the Knights of Columbus.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

The next Night Walk will take place this Friday, February 12th. **Bishop Barber** will be joining us for this walk, which will begin with an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Most Holy Rosary Church and then proceed to the intersection of E. 18th and A Street for the one hour witness. All those who wish to be a part of this witness are welcome to join us. The Prayer Service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Walk will follow at 6:30 p.m. Following the Witness and Walk, we return to the church for an evaluation and Closing Prayer. I hope you will join us and The Bishop for this event.

Next Sunday – The First Sunday of Lent

- Education Weekend for this year’s Bishop’s Appeal
- Penitential Procession and The Great Litany at each liturgy.
- Signing of the Book of the Elect and Rite of Sending of the Catechumens to the Cathedral

- Rite of Election, 4:00 p.m., Cathedral

Thank You Volunteers

Our volunteers each week save the parish thousands of dollars over the course the year.

...to our cleaning crews who faithfully clean the church, offices and parish hall every week: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Mency Osborne, and Carole Miller.**

...to our volunteers who do a great job of cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Steve Rojek, Patricia Britton, Gino Ramos, Geri Abaya, Harlan Young, and Mary Ewing.**

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections. Because of confidentiality, we do not disclose the names of the counting team members, but rest assured we are thankful for all that they do.

...to our volunteers who assist in the parish office each week: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our facilities volunteers who assist Rich Confetti: **Don Benson and Jose Palomino.**

Football Frenzy Thank You

The Social Events Committee hosted their second Football Frenzy night last Saturday night. It was a fun evening of food, drink and NFL games! A big thank you to **Jane Sharpe** for donating the delicious pulled pork sandwiches and

coleslaw. Also a big thank you to **Reggia Desmond** for the wonderful silent auction baskets and **June Stuhlreyer** for the chocolate dessert. Thank you to the members who helped decorate, clean up and work the event! They are: **Will and Catherine Avitabile, Lesley Eubanks, Lorraine Lohmeier, Maryann Peddicord, Jane Sharpe, Marla Plurkowski, Susan Batteredon and MaryAnne Douville.** We would also like to thank **Al Cosce** for donating the wonderful homemade “beer-drinking pretzels” and to **Bob Plurkowski** for being in charge of our Football Squares Game! It was an NFL...Night of Fun!!

An Invitation To Serve Our Community

The VIPS program is the Volunteers in Police Services program through Antioch Police Department. It was started in 2001 and currently has over 30 volunteers. The program is now taking applications for new volunteers. The VIPS support the police department by doing small services that free up the officers for higher priority duties.

VIPS perform clerical and administrative support, school and park patrol, traffic control, special events support, abandoned auto abatement, vacation house checks, handicapped parking enforcement and illegal sign abatement.

If you would like more information or an application form visit www.ci.antioch.ca.us and click on the VIPS link. The VIPS program is a wonderful way to help our community and the Antioch Police Department! A special word of congratulations to our newest VIP member, **Marla Plurkowski.**

Thank You From Corazon

Dear Fr. Rien and the Members of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish,

Thank you for building something life-changing with Corazon this year. We are so thankful for how you have contributed tangibly to help those in need with your donation of \$9,499.77 in 2015. Corazon “Builds Community Across Borders” and you have made it possible to open the door to self-reliance for youth, adults and communities. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Tom McMillen, President

The Annual Pastoral and Financial Report

At each liturgy last weekend, I presented the Annual Pastoral and Financial Report to the parish. As hard as I tried, and with four members of the Staff who proof-read the text, there were still several individuals and events that were unintentionally left out of the report. I deeply apologize for this and it was not my/our intent to leave anyone or anything out. We are implementing a new system whereby each month’s events are now being reviewed as the month concludes in order to not forget either the persons involved or the event itself. It is our hope that no one will ever be left off or out of the report again. For those of you who did not receive a report, additional copies are available on the credenza at the back of the church.

Bring Back Your Palms!

With everything that has been happening over the last two weeks, I failed to invite you to return your dried palms from last year’s Palm Sunday liturgies to be burned this coming Tuesday,

February 9th, to create the ashes with which we will be marked to begin our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. If you are able to return your palm branches tomorrow or even Tuesday morning, it would be greatly appreciated. A box on the table in the narthex will be prepared to receive them. Many thanks!

