

**For The Bulletin Of  
March 27, 2016**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE  
RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD – EASTER  
DAY**

*From Father Robert*

“The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” Welcome to all who are worshiping with us on this glorious Easter morning! We are blessed by your presence and you are truly God’s Easter Gift to us. Our hope and prayer is that your heart and life will be touched by the power of what we celebrate today: that death is no more – Christ has conquered death and the grave and because He lives, so shall we – forever! What great Good News! Much has been done by many of our parishioners to make you feel welcome and at home – from the beautiful worship leaflet, to the spectacular environment, the joyful welcome at the doors of the church, the glorious music of our choir, cantors, and organ, the ministers of the liturgy, the warmth and graciousness of our worship. This is a House of Prayer for ALL people and you are most welcome. If you have been away from the church for a brief time or a long time YOU are welcome and we hope you will feel “at home,” comfortable, and welcome. Because so many people worship with us on Easter, it is not possible for everyone to be able to sit and so I apologize to you that must stand for lack of seated space. I hope you will return next week when it is not quite as crowded! Easter is actually a season of seven weeks, culminating on the Great Fiftieth Day of Pentecost which this year will be celebrated on the weekend of May 14<sup>th</sup>

and 15<sup>th</sup>. Easter is such a great feast that it cannot be contained in just one day so we take seven full weeks, 50 days, to celebrate what it means for Christ to rise from the dead.

If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us through our parish office. We are here to serve all those who are seekers, who desire to follow Jesus more faithfully, and be a part of a “church home.” There is no better time to either return to the practice of your faith or to deepen your relationship with the Risen Lord. He loves you!

On this day when the gospel announces an empty tomb, we feel the contradictory reactions that the resurrection mystery arouses – seeing and believing on the one hand, misunderstanding and confusion on the other. This mystery defies all human understanding. The Easter stories tell us that the resurrection isn’t something we fully understand, but believe and live.

The act of seeing with the eye is a physical, complicated process. It begins with light rays bouncing off an object and being captured by the eye. It is possible to see in darkness. It was “early in the morning, while it was still dark” that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. How did she see? How did she know? She ran to Peter and John and they ran to the tomb. They, too, saw. More than saw! Their seeing was more than light refraction. Their seeing could penetrate the darkness of not understanding. Their seeing was a response of the heart that led to their believing. The mystery of the resurrection cannot be seen with a physical process, no matter how

complicated. The mystery is able to be seen because God gives us eyes of faith.

The gospel we hear this morning identifies only three characters: Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” By not being named, John can function symbolically – all of us are the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” Instead of trying to understand, we simply “run” to the mystery and embrace it so that we, like John, can enter into it and see and believe. In John’s gospel seeing and believing aren’t mental exercises but actions that express one’s inner disposition. Our belief in the resurrection is a matter of a willingness to encounter the risen One, surrender ourselves to Him, and give ourselves over for the good of others.

Even on this Easter Day when we rejoice in the risen life of Jesus, we are reminded that resurrection has its cost: self-giving for the sake of others. The only way to open ourselves and receive the new life that God promises through the resurrection of Jesus is to open ourselves to the needs of other in self-giving. If we try to understand this resurrection mystery by believing, we will miss it. The scripture passages today invite us to live the mystery by believing, an action. Believing is risen life made visible when we live and act as Jesus did. Paramount in the life of those who follow Jesus is taking up His love, care, and empathy for others.

The paradox of Christianity is that dying to self isn’t something to avoid, but is the way we remove the stone that blocks our own hearts from receiving new life. We have the next fifty days of Easter to help us grasp in our hearts and daily living that when we reach out to others

we ourselves are actually living Jesus’ risen life. We only need to take the time to contemplate this mystery and recognize the good with which God blesses us. We need to see beyond the obvious – an empty tomb and the demands of self-giving – to the glory that God has bestowed through Jesus. Our seeing must become believing.

The Alleluia that bursts forth with the news of resurrection expresses a heartfelt cry that we be willing identify ourselves with the dying and rising Christ. Our knowing gives way to an alleluia-believing. It is a great challenge – but the result is Life in a way that we never dreamed possible.

What will be your response to what you hear, see, and feel today?

- Like Mary Magdalene, I have been compelled to tell another what I find when I go looking for Jesus when...
- The times in my life when I have run to find the risen Christ (like Peter and the other disciple did) are... The times I have run away are...
- “Seeing” and “believing” in Jesus’ resurrection means to me... The way I try to live this mystery is...

### ***Easter Flowers***

All of the beautiful trees, blooming plants, and cut floral arrangements have been given in honor of OR in loving memory of family members, loved ones, and friends. In a bulletin of the Easter Season, all of these generous gifts will be acknowledged. Today, we especially wish to acknowledge the Floral Arrangement that graces the Altar which is placed to the Glory of God and in

Loving Memory of **Tomasa Guieb**  
from the **Guieb-Alphonso Family**.

***Easter Acknowledgements***

On behalf of all of us, I want to acknowledge all those who have had a part in preparing and participating in our Easter Liturgies: the Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, the Adult Acolytes, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, the Altar Guild, The members of our Art & Environment Committee, the parish office staff, our Cantors, Choirs, and **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, without whom we would not enjoy and have the glorious music that is such a part of our liturgies and a hallmark of our parish, and to all those who work “behind the scenes” and attend to all the myriad of details; to our Knights of Columbus who have provided parking lot security both last week for Palm Sunday and today’s Easter Liturgies; and to all those who donated so generously to provide our Easter Environment.

***Memorial Funeral Liturgy for Ruben Tapia***

This coming Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate a Memorial Funeral Liturgy for our parishioner, **Ruben Tapia**, beloved husband of Lorrie. The liturgy will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by a reception at Lone Tree Golf and Event Center. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers as we honor his memory and commend him to God’s loving embrace.

***Cemetery Mass and Blessing/Dedication of New Niches***

This coming Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., it will be my privilege to preside for Eucharist at Holy Cross Cemetery and to bless the new niches

that have been prepared behind the Chapel of the Risen Christ. I hope you will be able to join us for this special celebration.

***Divine Mercy Observance***

Next Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, all those who follow the Divine Mercy Devotion are invited to join us for Sung Evening Prayer at 3:00 p.m. The liturgy will include the blessing of images, the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a reflection given by our Pastoral Associate, **Peter Degl’Innocenti**. The liturgy will be followed by a reception in our parish hall. We are grateful to **Steve Andreatta and Bobbie Ochang** for making the arrangements for and facilitating this observance.

***CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence***

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence will take place on Friday evening, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:15 p.m., at Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and going to the intersection of Cavallo Road and E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street. We begin with an orientation, followed by prayer, the witness, and then return to the church for an evaluation and closing prayer. I hope you will join us.

***Antioch Womens and Childrens Shelter Project***

I hope you will join us on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers to support **Gary Kingsbury** who will be going before the City Council to seek approval for the proposed Womens’ and Childrens’ Shelter Project. Mr. Kingsbury spoke to each of our liturgies some time ago and enlisted our support for the shelter and many people from various churches have responded enthusiastically. Let us let

the City Council know that we support this project wholeheartedly.

### ***Interfaith CROP Walk***

This year's Interfaith CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m., leaving from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on San Jose Avenue in the strip mall. The walk will follow the same route as last year: from the church to the Maya Cinema and back. This walk raises funds to alleviate world hunger as well as going to assist local charities that feed the homeless and hungry. Please join us!

### ***Keep Antioch Beautiful!***

This month, in lieu of the regular monthly neighborhood cleanup, we are participating in the city-wide "Keep Antioch Beautiful" project. Residents are invited to go to a variety of sites to work together to clean up those areas and at the same time to beautify these parts of our city. Please see the flyer at the back of my insert today to learn how you can sign up and participate. The areas to be cleaned are:

- a. *Nick Rodriguez Community Center*
- b. *Antioch High School*
- c. *Deer Valley High School (groups from this check in site will be sent across the street to Prewett to address the trail.) This will also allow those that come to this area to go into the neighborhoods around DVHS. The proximity of neighborhoods is why DVHS was selected vs. Prewett as the location of the check in site.*
- d. *Turner Elementary*
- e. *Park Middle School*
- f. *Carmen Dragon Elementary*
- g. *Mission Elementary*

### ***Congratulations Mary Rocha***

Today we congratulate our parishioner and City Council Member, **Mary Rocha**, who was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Hall of Fame honors women who have distinguished themselves for creating and bettering community. She was nominated by **Councilwoman Lori Ogorchock** who said "Mary has acted unselfishly and is obviously one of the women who should be honored for all she has done for our city and county while being not only a wife and mother but also a politician who has made a difference. Mary shows by her actions how much she loves Antioch and all of us who live here." Congratulations, Mary! Please know how proud we are of you!

### ***Thank You***

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who cleaned the church last Saturday in preparation for Palm Sunday: **Steve Rojek, Angela Bueno, and Mency Osborne**. And, to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Gino Ramos**.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Lorraine Lohmeier, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Yvette Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona**.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson**.

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave**

**Costanza, Vangie Parrilla, Judy Quicho and Belen Farin.**

...to our loyal mailer volunteers who came to stuff envelopes for the Easter mailer: **Bernice Campbell, Joe and Carol Fanfa, Clem Bushman, Filomena Macedo, Jackie King, Gloria Olvera, Mary Kendrick, Anthony and Claudette Gumina, Ruth Landry, Geri Chiechi, Anne Peck, Nancy Newton, Carole Miller, Lorraine Lohmeier and Bev Iacona.**

...to our facilities volunteers who assisted Rich Confetti: **Don Benson and Jose Palomino** (aka: RDJ).

### ***Palm Sunday Environment***

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank the members of our Art & Environment Committee for their work in creating such a beautiful and meaningful environment for our Palm Sunday liturgies: **Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Vangie Parrilla, Harlan Young, Angela The, Jodie The, Doris Radovan, Carole Miller, Patricia Britton, Diane Hack, Judy Quicho, Belen Farin, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Ed and Sandy Stokes, Robert Goncalves, Lee Oliver, Natalia Joyce, Gail Burgarino, Denise Moss, Tom and Stevie Catchings, and Theresa Nelms.**

### ***Antioch Police Department Explorer Program***

The Antioch Police Department Explorer Program is a progressive and educational opportunity for young men and women between the ages of 16 and 21 who have an interest in learning about law enforcement. Our explorers are afforded the opportunity to learn more about law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and the community in which they live.

Explorers are required to volunteer at least 10 hours a month. They perform various tasks such as scene security, traffic control, safety presentations, tours of the police facility, community events, safety fairs, and many other law enforcement related tasks. Explorers are allowed to "ride along" with officers during their shift. The program is supervised by sworn personnel who offer insight into the exciting world of law enforcement. The explorers receive training each month in areas such as evidence collection, crime prevention, firearms, traffic control, community policing, and many other law enforcement related topics. Explorers also participate in a yearly competition against other police explorer programs.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

To become a City of Antioch police explorer, candidates must be at least 16 years of age and no older than 20 years of age at the time of application. Candidates must also possess a valid California driver's license, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, be able to volunteer 10 hours a month, and have a desire to learn about law enforcement. For further information, please contact the Antioch Police Department, Lt. Trevor Schnitzius, (925) 779-6973.