

**For The Bulletin Of
April 17, 2016**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER – Good Shepherd
Sunday**

From Father Robert

We sometimes hear it said that to give is already to receive. In the very gift-giving, the giver receives intangible but very real benefits in return. Nor do the benefits depend on the size or worth of the gift. Generous, loving gift-giving deepens relationships, strengthens commitment, promotes mutual action. Gift-giving creates memories of goodness, establishes a habit of self-giving, assures the gift-giver of sharing in the dignity of the receiver.

The focus of today's gospel is giving, giving, and giving. The Father gives us to Jesus as His flock. We give Jesus our attentive listening and faithful following. Jesus gives us eternal Life. There are no qualifying words in today's gospel at all, no "ifs" about the giving. This is simply the way living risen Life is. Jesus gives us the gift of risen Life; we give Jesus the gift of ourselves.

The gospel conveys Jesus' great, tender care and concern for His "sheep." This care does not keep His followers from "violent abuse" or "great distress." It does assure them of protection in the midst of persecution and of eternal Life. But this assurance only comes when we followers of Jesus "hear His voice" and live out of the personal relationship God offers us. It comes when we give the gift of ourselves in hearing and following.

We follow first by listening. The call to follow is a call to faithful obedience (the root word for obedience means "to hear"). In other words, hearing Jesus – heeding His voice – is already an act of following. Heeding Jesus' voice is already our own participation in proclaiming the Gospel. But probably most importantly, hearing Jesus' voice is already our participation in risen Life. Ultimately this promise of risen Life is the reassurance and care that Jesus offers: by hearing Jesus' voice and following Him we will not perish. No better care than this could the Good Shepherd give us as gift!

Living The Paschal Mystery

Most of our reflections on the paschal mystery revolve around reminders that being plunged into the dying and rising mystery of Christ through our baptism means we must die to self if we wish to share in eternal Life. WE look for ordinary opportunities in our daily living to die to self and thus transform what appears to be ordinary, human actions into extensions of the ministry of the Good Shepherd Himself. For example, comforting the sick and dying isn't simply a caring human action; in the context of our baptismal commitment it is an expression of Jesus' love for us and the dignity of the other as members of the Body of Christ.

This is true and surely the heart of the mystery. This Sunday, however, we might turn this around and rest a bit in what the Good Shepherd offers us when we live the paschal mystery: eternal Life, the gift of the assurance that we will never perish. For all our efforts to die to self for the good of others, they do not equal the gift of self that Jesus gives us. Sometimes we are so caught up in

the effort of dying that we do forget that risen Life is already within us and among us. This is a good Sunday to bask in Jesus' care and protection; listen to His voice calling us to His loving, embracing hands; and rejoice in the gift of goodness showered upon us who are faithful to His call. This, too, is living the paschal mystery. Giving the gift of ourselves to others, to Jesus is living the paschal mystery.

As we come to the mid-point of the Easter Season, have you been able to sustain the same joy and enthusiasm, the same spirit life-giving energy of Easter Day? How have today's scriptures passages reassured you?

- When I realize that the Father has given me to the risen Christ, I...
- I hear Jesus say to me...His words call me to...
- God unconditionally gives me...I unconditionally give to God...to others...

About Liturgy: "Hinge" Sunday in the Easter Lectionary

Traditionally known as "Good Shepherd Sunday," this Fourth Sunday of Easter is something of a "hinge" Sunday. On the one hand, the image of a loving, caring shepherd bids us to look back to the first three Sundays of Easter on which the gospels all record appearance accounts of the risen Jesus; these Sundays assure us that Jesus is alive and continues to be present to us, teach us, and care for us. On the other hand, the image of a loving, caring shepherd bids us look forward to the next three Sundays and Pentecost; Jesus prepares us to be disciples by "knowing" us. No matter what demands our discipleship make on us, (at least the demand of dying to self), we are assured

on this Sunday (as on all Sundays) that Jesus will never let us "perish." Such reassurance gives the hope and courage we need to be faithful to Jesus' call to follow.

Hands As Sacramental Symbol

Jesus reassures us in today's gospel that "no one can take us out of His hand." Because using the hands is often such a powerful gesture, it ought to come as no surprise to us that hands are used as a symbol in all of our Catholic sacraments. Four of the sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Orders) expressly call for an imposition of the hands that includes actual physical touch. The other three sacraments (Eucharist, Penance, Marriage) use extended hands (and, sometimes, in face-to-face confession the confessor might actually touch the head of the penitent during absolution). This latter gesture of extended hands usually signifies an *epiclesis*, which means calling down the Holy Spirit in blessing and/or consecration. In all cases the symbolic gesture with hands conveys the intimacy with which God chooses to be connected with us.

The Good Shepherd Panel

Today, for the first time, you are seeing "The Good Shepherd" panel central in the environment which was hand-painted by **Sherry Morris**, former parishioner, member of the Art & Environment Committee, who has moved to the Gold Country. Sherry continues to be involved with the art and environment used in our church through her artistic gifts, of which The Good Shepherd panel is the latest offering. I hope it finds meaning and beauty for you to enrich your worship experience with us, especially on this Good Shepherd Sunday. On

behalf of all of us, I thank Sherry for this beautiful work of art that enriches our liturgy and prayer.

The Floral Arrangement before the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in Honor of the Fortieth Anniversary of Marriage of Louis and Stella Renner. Congratulations and Best Wishes for many more years of happiness, the best of health, and the deepening of your love for one another!

CROP Walk Today

The annual walk to highlight the issue of world hunger, both locally and globally, takes place this afternoon, beginning at 3:00 p.m. from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. I will be walking on behalf of the parish and I am deeply grateful to all those who have sponsored me through their generous donations over the past several weeks. I invite you to join me on the walk by arriving at St. Andrew's by 2:15 p.m. The walk will take us from St. Andrew's to the Maya Cinema and back. We should be finished by 4:00 p.m.

Keep Antioch Beautiful!

Once again this year we are participating in the "Keep Antioch Beautiful" event which takes place this coming Saturday, April 23rd. Various sites around the city have been chosen and I will be participating at Mission Elementary School and invite you to join me. It all begins at 9:00 a.m. Please see the bulletin for more details and other sites that have been targeted for clean up.

Easter Cards for Archbishop Brunett

Thank goodness that the Easter Season is 50 days! There is ample time to send Archbishop Brunett greetings for the

season. Please send your cards and personal notes as follows:

**Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett
Archbishop Emeritus
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104**

The New Icons

Six new Icons were installed and seen for the first time on Holy Thursday. We have waited a long time for them to be completed and placed in the sanctuary. They are the work of **Sr. Anne Davidson, RSCJ with assistance of Iconographer Pavel Tikmirhov of Sacramento.** They represent the six First Class relics of the saints whose relics were placed in the reliquary of the Altar when it was dedicated. And, because they are first class relics and are parts of the bodies of the saints, we have placed hanging lamps which are lighted at weekend liturgies to honor their memories and spirit. Each Icon is either a Gift or Memorial. They are as follows:

Pope Saint Leo I, also known as Saint Leo the Great, was pope from 29 September 440 to his death in 461. He was an Italian aristocrat, and was the first pope to have been called "the Great." The Icon is a Gift from **John and Chris Templer in loving memory of Jack and Shirley Templer.**

Saint Teresa of Ávila, also called **Saint Teresa of Jesus**, baptized as **Teresa Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada** (28 March 1515 – 4 October 1582), was a prominent [Spanish mystic](#), [Roman Catholic saint](#), [Carmelite nun](#), author during the [Counter Reformation](#), and [theologian](#) of contemplative life through [mental prayer](#). She was a reformer of the

[Carmelite Order](#) and is considered to be a founder of the [Discalced Carmelites](#) along with [John of the Cross](#). In 1622, forty years after her death, she was [canonized](#) by [Pope Gregory XV](#), and on 27 September 1970 was named a [Doctor of the Church](#) by [Pope Paul VI](#).^[5] Her books, which include her autobiography (*The Life of Teresa of Jesus*) and her seminal work *El Castillo Interior* (trans.: *The Interior Castle*), are an integral part of [Spanish Renaissance literature](#) as well as [Christian mysticism](#) and [Christian meditation](#) practices. She also wrote *Camino de Perfección* (trans.: *The Way of Perfection*). The Icon is a Gift from **Steve and Frances Rojek**.

St. Maria Goretti (October 16, 1890 – July 6, 1902) is an Italian virgin-[martyr](#) of the Roman Catholic Church, and one of the youngest [canonized saints](#).^[1] She was born to a farming family. Her father died when she was nine, and they had to share a house with another family, the Serenellis. Maria took over household duties while her mother, brothers, and sister worked in the fields. One afternoon, [Alessandro](#), the Serenellis' son, made sexual advances to her. When she refused to submit to him, he stabbed her fourteen times. She was taken to the hospital but she died forgiving him. He was arrested, convicted, and jailed. After three years he repented, and when eventually released from prison, he visited her mother to beg forgiveness, which she granted. He later became a [lay brother](#) in a monastery, dying peacefully in 1970. She was [beatified](#) in 1947, and canonized in 1950. The Icon is a Gift from **Marie and Louis Leanos**.

St. Gemma Galgani, March 12, 1878 – April 11, 1903) was an [Italian mystic](#), venerated as a [saint](#) in the [Roman](#)

[Catholic Church](#) since 1940.^[1] She has been called the "Daughter of Passion" because of her profound imitation of the [Passion of Christ](#).^[2] In early 1903, Gemma was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and went into a long and often painful decline accompanied by several mystical phenomena. One of the religious nursing sisters who attended to her stated, "We have cared for a good many sick people, but we have never seen anything like this." At the beginning of Holy Week 1903, her health quickly deteriorated, and by [Good Friday](#) she was suffering tremendously, dying in a small room across from the Giannini house on April 11, 1903 [Holy Saturday](#). After a thorough examination of her life by the Church, she was [beatified](#) on May 14, 1933 and canonized on May 2, 1940.^[6] Galgani's relics are housed at the Passionist [monastery](#) in Lucca, Italy. This Icon is the Gift of **The Lohmeier and Galli Families - In Loving Memory of Moundo and Elizabeth Eli, Beloved Father/Mother and Nonno/Nonni**.

St. John Neumann, 1811 – 1860. John Neumann was born in what is now the Czech Republic. After studying in Prague, he came to New York at 25 and was ordained a priest. He did missionary work in New York until he was 29, when he joined the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio, where he became popular with the Germans. At 41, as bishop of Philadelphia, he organized the parochial school system into a diocesan one, increasing the number of pupils almost twentyfold within a short time. Gifted with outstanding organizing ability, he drew into the city many teaching

communities of sisters and the Christian Brothers. During his brief assignment as vice provincial for the Redemptorists, he placed them in the forefront of the parochial movement. Well-known for his holiness and learning, spiritual writing and preaching, on October 13, 1963, John Neumann became the first American bishop to be beatified. Canonized in 1977, he is buried in St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia. The Icon is a **Gift from Keith and Jennifer Hrabchak.**

St. Teresa of Calcutta, 1910 – 1997

Teresa of Calcutta, MC,^[51] was an [Albanian Roman Catholic religious sister](#) and [missionary](#).^[6] She was born in [Skopje](#) (modern [Macedonia](#)), then part of the [Kosovo Vilayet](#) in the [Ottoman Empire](#). After having lived in Macedonia for some eighteen years, she moved to [Ireland](#) and then to [India](#), where she lived for most of her life. Mother Teresa founded the [Missionaries of Charity](#), a Roman Catholic [religious congregation](#), which in 2012 consisted of over 4,500 sisters and was active in 133 countries. They run hospices and homes for people with [HIV/AIDS](#), [leprosy](#) and [tuberculosis](#); [soup kitchens](#); dispensaries and mobile clinics; children's and family counselling programs; [orphanages](#); and schools. Members must adhere to the vows of [chastity, poverty, and obedience](#), as well as a fourth vow, to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor".^[2] Mother Teresa was the recipient of numerous honors, including the 1979 [Nobel Peace Prize](#). In 2003, she was [beatified](#) as "Blessed Teresa of Calcutta". A second miracle was credited to her intercession by [Pope Francis](#), in December 2015, paving the way for her to be recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.^{[51][8]}

A controversial figure both during her life and after her death, Mother Teresa was widely admired by many for her charitable works. She was both praised and criticized for her [pro-life](#) views.^{[9][10][11][12]} She also received criticism for conditions in the hospices for which she was responsible.^{[13][14][15][16]} Her official biography was written by an Indian civil servant, Navin Chawla, and published in 1992. She will be canonized on September 4, 2016. The Icon is a Gift of **Steve Andreatta.**

The Icons will be solemnly blessed at the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Pentecost, Sunday, May 15th. With the installation of these latest six Icons, the art work for the sanctuary is now complete.

Fr. Griener Returns

I had an email from Fr. George Griener, S.J. He has been away as well as being swamped with work at the Jesuit School of Theology which has prevented him from being with us. I am happy and pleased to report to you that he will be with us next weekend, April 23rd and 24th and then again on the weekend of May 14th and 15th, The Solemnity of Pentecost.

California 5K Walk-Run For Kidneys

“Team Matthew” Ouimet invites our parishioners to join them for the “California 5K Walk-Run for Kidneys” on Saturday, May 7th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Heather Farms Park, 301 San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. You may register at [www.ohf.org](#); Registration is FREE! The walk supports the Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation.

Thank You

...to our wonderful volunteers who faithfully clean the church each week: **Mila Rodrigo, Jun Bajet, Mercy Osborne, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our wonderful volunteers who faithfully clean the bathrooms in the church and parish hall each week: **Gino Ramos, Mary Ewing, Robert Goncalves, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Harlan Young.**

...to all our parishioners who supported last Sunday's **YLI Pasta Dinner** at Holy Rosary Parish. The salad, garlic bread, and pasta were delicious! And the sauce, as promised, was magical! I was also greatly impressed by the presence of our Knights of Columbus and their wives, children, and friends. Clearly, this event would not have been so successful had it not been for the presence of such a large number of our parishioners who showed such great support for our YLI. Also, **five** women of our parish took home applications to become members of the YLI. Well done! And congratulations, especially to: **Lee Oliver, President**, who did such a great job of greeting and welcoming each guest who attended; **Jeannine Ford, Dorothy Lamendola, Carlynn Costello, and Kathy Augusta, all YLI members from our parish who did such a great job of serving.**

....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: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, Rowena Cayaban, 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: **Bob Carvalho, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho and Vangie Parrilla.**

Our Delta Deanery Pilgrimage

On Saturday, August 27th, our Delta Deanery parishes will make a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. I am very pleased to announce to you that **Father Mark Wiesner**, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Livermore, and one of the Missionaries of Mercy installed and commissioned by **Francis, Bishop of Rome, will be the Presider and Homilist** for the celebration of the Pilgrimage Eucharist. The first planning meeting for the pilgrimage will take place on Thursday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. Directors of Liturgy and Directors of Music have been invited from the 8 Deanery parishes to participate in the liturgical planning. Please mark the date and plan on attending with us. We will be able to take approximately 125 parishioners by bus to the pilgrimage. Watch the bulletin and my insert for continuing information and updates.

Family To Family Seeks New Members

We are seeking 8-12 loving and committed people to form a new Family to Family team. After 5½ years, the team members of the St. Ignatius of Antioch F2F ministry have decided to step back and work on another outreach program that is exploring the possibility of relocating a refugee family to our area.

The goal of the Family to Family ministry is to partner with a local low-income family who is experiencing

significant challenges in their daily lives. The needs of the families vary anywhere from lack of full-time employment, transportation issues, educational needs and/or immigration issues, just to name a few. This ministry offers a unique opportunity to offer a hand up to a struggling low-income family by serving as their mentor and friend as they work toward achieving independence. This program is founded in the gospel call to serve the poor and to empower them in faith to become contributing members of society.

If you are longing to get involved in a program like this, we encourage you to prayerfully consider joining the St. Ignatius of Antioch Family to Family team. The “old” team will be available to help train and answer all your questions and to guide you in getting started. We promise this ministry will touch your hearts.

A training session will be held in the very near future so look for information in the weekly bulletin or contact Rick Howell (925-439-9225 or via email rickandsuziehowell@yahoo.com). On behalf of your Family to Family team, thank you for considering this important ministry.

Update: Antioch Shelter Project

This past Tuesday evening the Antioch Shelter Project was formally presented to the Antioch City Council. Preceding the presentation a number of Antioch residents spoke to the increasing crisis of homelessness in our city. Powerful messages were given by **Pastor Jonathan Gee of the New Life Dream Center, Pastor Will McGarvey, Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church and Executive Director of the**

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, and Gary Kingsbury, the heart and principal mover behind the project. The Council responded to the presentation with positive support to fast track the proposal so that it can move quickly through the Building Commission process. The need is urgent and the members of the Council understand that. I am so very proud of our parish and parishioners from our Leadership, Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council, our Knights of Columbus, and supportive parishioners who were there to lend their presence and their voices to effect change and address this critical issue. Please continue to pray and support for the success of the Antioch Shelter Project. Updates will be shared with you as new information becomes available.

In addition to the Shelter Project, our parishioner, **Mary Rocha**, was recognized and presented with a citation from the City Council for being named “Woman of the Year.” Again, congratulations, Mary! We are very proud of you!

First Quarter Financial Report

The first quarter parish financial report prepared by the Finance Council is included in today’s bulletin. The report format has been modified to highlight important points. This report is also available on the parish website.

Leadership Dinner Update

As reported last week, the parish leadership groups (Pastoral Staff and Pastoral & Finance Councils) met for dinner on April 9. At the end of the evening, a free-will donation jar netted a \$400 contribution to the New Building Fund.

