

**For The Bulletin Of
April 24, 2016**

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

From Father Robert

When we love someone very much, any leave-taking always brings sadness. When the absence is prolonged or feared permanent, leave-taking can be mighty heart-rending. Children and spouse with tears streaming down their faces cling to a soldier leaving for a tour of duty. Family members move slowly, looking back over their shoulders at the hospital bed when leaving the room of someone who has been critically injured in an accident. Graduations include leave-takings, and possibly never seeing friends again. Leave-taking is part of everyone's life. It reminds us that we human beings are fragile, that our earthly life is transitory, that the only sure and permanent reality is the abiding love of the risen Lord and the glory that is the outcome of our living His commandment of love.

Today's gospel is about leave-taking: one leads to betrayal and despair; the other leads to an invitation to participate in the love-Life of the One Who willingly embraces death and in that embrace conquers it for Himself and for us.

Two departures are noted in today's gospel: that of Judas and that of Jesus. Judas's departure initiates the events of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus' imminent departure initiates His giving the disciples the commandment to love as He has loved. Jesus' passion and death is the full revelation to us of what

it means to love as Jesus loved. Love means giving one's life for others. It is the full revelation of how we are to love: not counting the cost, but always looking to the glory that is the outcome of deep and abiding love. This is God's glory. This is Jesus' glory. This is our glory. Jesus' resurrection is the full revelation of this glory.

Jesus doesn't ask of us anything that He Himself hasn't already undertaken to the fullest: the Good Friday-Easter events make clear the extent of Jesus' love for us – He will lay down His very life so that we might have a share in His risen Life and glory. As disciples we are commanded to love as the risen Lord loved. If our love is to imitate His, then our love must also include the willingness to lay down our lives for others. The kind of love that Jesus commands leads to self-emptying dying to self.

Glory and love are promised to us – but we share in them only if we imitate Jesus' self-giving way of living. As the gospel says, Jesus was with the disciples "only a little while longer"; Jesus departed. However, He remains with us. Through our own self-giving love we continue His mission of loving others unto salvation whereby God is glorified. Loving one another, then, isn't just a nice idea. Loving one another is the very way we participate in Jesus' saving mission and make Him present. Our loving others as Jesus loves us assures us that this love leads not to leave-taking, but to the glory of the fullness of Presence and Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

In so many ways we already act out of the love that Jesus commands in this gospel. We need only to do the everyday things we are already doing with new meaning: we share in Jesus' mission when we love others as He loves us. If, however, an examination of our lives suggests that perhaps we are not so self-giving and loving as Jesus, then this gospel is an invitation to love more completely. What is at stake is a share in Jesus' everlasting Life and glory. This Life and glory is so worth loving for!

As you listened to today's scripture passages, what impact did they have on you and your life?

- I depart from Jesus when...What draws me back to Him is...
- Love is...
- Loving one another as Jesus loved glorifies God because...My love glorifies God...others...myself...

About Liturgy: The Dismissal At The Conclusion of Eucharist

At the end of every celebration of the Eucharist we are blessed, then sent forth to live what we have celebrated. It is too easy to be eager to leave church and get on with the rest of our day/evening; we can readily miss the real import of this very short but important rite. One of the dismissal formulae in *The Roman Missal* is "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." This speaks directly to this Sunday's gospel. We glorify the Lord when we follow through on His new commandment of love. This love is not the fleeting and shallow love projected so often by the entertainment industry, but is the life-giving love that Jesus Himself modeled for us. Our daily

living must be characterized by the kind of self-giving love that brings us to put the good of others before our own self-interests. It is the kind of love that prompts us to empty ourselves for the sake of others, no matter what the cost. When we love as Jesus loves us, then every moment of every day glorifies God.

Family to Family Ministry

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.

Concert Series “April in Paris”

This coming Friday evening, April 29th, the next in the series of concerts takes place at 8:00 p.m. when **Don Pearson, Director of Music, Organist and Artist-in-Residence** performs “April in Paris,” a concert of pieces for organ by the great French School of Organists. You will not want to miss this program of “French Fireworks!” The concert is followed by a reception in our parish hall. While there is no charge to attend, we do take up a Free Will Offering to help defray the costs of the reception. I hope you will join us.

Congratulations To Our New Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus

This past Saturday, four of our current Knights of Columbus achieved the highest rank of the order, The Fourth Degree, which was received in Sacramento. Please join me in congratulating **Sir Knights Rick Howell, Gino Ramos, Kenny Lane, and Cory Cook.**

An Evening of Welcome and Discovery

Monday evening, May 16th, at 7:00 p.m. has been set aside for our parishioners to gather in the parish hall to hear responses to questions placed in the Red Box. For the last several weeks, you have been invited to write down your

questions and place them in the big Red Box on the shelf in the narthex. There are sufficient questions at this point to offer the evening of “welcome and discovery.” I hope you will plan to join us.

Relay For Life Bunco – From Alicia Perez

What a wonderful and lively evening we had on Monday! We heard the word BUNCO many times throughout the evening. The pace was fast and furious but our BUNCO event was a great success.

A great big thank you is in order for our team members who volunteered their time and support. Thank you to our 48 guests who came to enjoy some great appetizers, fun games and super raffle prizes!

Thank you to **Dave Costanza** for the delicious pizza bites, to **Lorraine Lohmeier, Maryann Peddicord, June Stuhlreyer and Sherry Webb** for donating the appetizers and desserts. Thank you to **Marla Plurkowski, June Stuhlreyer, Kathleen Clarke, Pat Dunleavy, Maryann Peddicord, Pam Confetti** for the raffles prizes. Thanks to **Don Benson, Jose Perez, and Rich Confetti** for helping with setting up the hall.

Congratulations to **Mamie Pollard** for the most wins, to **Ed Cissell** for the most losses and **Carolina Delfin** for the most Buncos.

Our St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay team is now 1/4 of the way to reaching its goal. We raised \$1,000 towards our \$4,000 goal.

Please remember that our Relay for Life event will take place on Saturday and Sunday June 4th and 5th. It is a 24 hour event that begins at 10 AM Saturday and finishes at 10 AM Sunday. Come join us for an hour or more to walk around the Deer Valley High School track, in memory or in honor of a loved one, friend, co-worker who has been touched by cancer.

If you can't join us, perhaps you will consider donating a few dollars to keep our team going. All our proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society to continue their efforts in fighting cancer through research, education, free services for cancer patients and legislative support.

Our St. Ignatius of Antioch team has been one of the largest groups that show up and support the walk at the Relay. I am proud to call them my brothers and sisters in Christ.

From St. Peter Martyr School

Dear Fr. Robert,

Thank you for the very generous financial gift of \$8,820.72 to St. Peter Martyr School from the parishioners of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. What a tremendous Lenten Gift! This support for Catholic Education at St. Peter Martyr School from your Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday liturgies is truly a blessing! The joy and love that is experienced through your Lenten Alms gives witness to the generous spirit in your parish. This donation combined with the monetary donations sent earlier this school year **exceeds \$11,000** in support from St. Ignatius of Antioch. We are deeply grateful for your financial

and spiritual support and honored to be your “adopted” Catholic School.

On behalf of the students, families, faculty, and staff, I extend our sincere thanks and wish you continued blessings throughout the Easter Season. You and all the parishioners are being remembered in our daily prayers of gratitude. We also pray that more families from your parish will choose to send their children to St. Peter Martyr School so we may partner with them in their children’s academic and spiritual development.

Respectfully yours in Christ,
Joe Siino, Principal

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

The Antioch Police Department is excited to announce the **70th** installment of the Neighborhood Cleanup Program. This is a collaborative community effort which involves active participation from The Antioch Police Department Crime Prevention Commission; Neighborhood Watch Program; Volunteers in Police Service; community volunteers and the Public Works Department.

Collectively, “**We**”, everyone who works and lives in the City Antioch, can make a difference and improve the quality of life. It’s our community and it’s our chance to make a difference.

The City of Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup program is not just for residential neighborhoods. It is a program that will change venues on a monthly basis and it will include business and commercial areas as well. Neighborhoods that are free of trash

and refuse are inviting, and a clean community instills a sense of community pride.

The 70th Neighborhood Cleanup event will occur on **Saturday, May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Volunteers will meet at the Live Oak School parking lot.** We will be cleaning the neighborhoods between **G** and **F** Streets from **17th** to **11th**. Volunteers will receive instructions and the equipment necessary to accomplish the goal. The targeted area is within walking distance. Excluding inclement weather, future Neighborhood Cleanup events are scheduled for the first Saturday of every month and the locations will be announced in advance.

Remember, cleaning up your neighborhood can make life better for your family, your neighbors and your community!

Unfortunately, I will be unable to join the effort in May because we have High School Confirmation at the Cathedral that morning. I do hope that some of our parishioners will participate. If you go, please let me know so that I can acknowledge you in my Insert. Many thanks!

Thank You

Where would we be without all of the amazing volunteer parishioners who come forward to help with so many programs, projects, outreaches and needs each week?

...to those who come faithfully to clean and maintain the church and parish hall:
Carole Miller, Rowena Cayaban, Cathy Romeo, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, and Steve Rojek.

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall:
Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, Gino Ramos, and Harlan Young.

....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, Lorraine Lohmeier, 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, Carole Miller, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla and Belen Farin.**

City Council Meeting And The Antioch Shelter Project

On Tuesday April 12, our parish helped 'pack the chamber' at the Antioch City Council meeting. Pastor Johnathan Gee of the New Life Dream Center, Rev. Will McGarvey, Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church and Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa, and Gary Kingsbury, the driving force behind the Antioch Shelter Project all addressed the council on the urgent need to fast-track this project through the permitting and rezoning process. Our parish fully supports the Antioch Shelter Project. Father Robert was joined by a large number of parishioners, including staff and members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils. Following the presentation, every member of the city council voiced their support for the shelter. The next steps include placing the project on the

City Council's official agenda so that the rezoning of the property identified as the shelter location can move forward.

Plant Sale Last Weekend

The plant sale last weekend was a huge success with more than \$500 being raised to offset the community garden irrigation costs. The Garden Ministry sincerely thanks everyone who purchased a plant or simply made a donation in support of this outreach ministry. Produce from the garden supplements the canned goods donated to St. Vincent de Paul and is used, when available, in providing meals to area shelters. All of the plants available for sale were donated by parishioners; **Gail Burgarino, Joe Fanfa, Brian McCoy, Carole Miller, Bill Stuhlreyer and Sherry Webb.**

CROP Walk Update

St. Ignatius of Antioch joined 6 other Pittsburg and Antioch churches at this year's CROP Walk. This event serves to raise awareness and funds to combat global and local hunger. The total amount raised by this event was not available for this article, however, we can report that the parish supported Father Robert to the tune of \$493.25 and the total St. Ignatius of Antioch contribution exceeded \$700!



The St. Ignatius CROP Walk Team: **Kumiko Freedman, Carole Miller, Father Robert, Steve Rojek, Olivia Rojek, Ed Cissell, Sharon Cissell, Brian McCoy, Mark Costanza, Tina Costanza, Bev Iacona and Lorraine Lohmeier.** Not pictured: **Gary Freedman and Vicki McCoy.**

Mountain View Shelter Dinner

This coming week our parishioners and organizations will be providing dinner each evening at the Mountain View Shelter for Homeless Families in Martinez. Each night, a delicious, home-made dinner will be prepared and served at 6:00 p.m. to approximately 35 to 40 individuals who are fortunate to have found shelter at Mountain View. Please pray for our organizations and parishioners who will extend the loving, caring hands of Jesus to our sisters and brothers.

THE JOY OF LOVE, AMORIS LAETITIA, THE PASTORAL IDEAL AND SOLUTION – From Fr. Richard Mangini, Pastor, St. Bonaventure Church

The long-awaited Exhortation of Pope Francis, summarizing the last two Vatican Synods on the Family and all its related issues, was published two weeks ago. It is 250 pages, and I have read only the first two chapters. The Pope writes in his beautiful, clear and simple style. I look forward to Chapter Four on the beauty and goodness of married love. The controversial questions about divorce and remarriage and Holy Communion for the Divorced and Remarried do not appear until Chapter Eight.

The document emphasizes the Pastoral Solution to these questions, leaving it to

the Pastoral person, whether priest or lay minister, to discern the personal situation of the people involved. This has always been a pastoral solution in Canon Law, once the exclusive prerogative of the bishop, now delegated to the priest confessor. Actually, many priests have exercised this pastoral authority and option for many years, as the Pope points out.

The Pope understands the theological, spiritual and scriptural ideals of the marriage covenant, but also understands the human difficulty of reaching all of them, and more importantly, the extraordinary human, psychological and emotional mystery of individual personalities.

He also understands that even with all the best preparation before marriage, the mystery of the human personality will remain, and no ideals or rules or regulation will change that.

The pastoral solution is really only for those whose lives have changed in a significant manner, who desire spiritual communion with the Church and Eucharistic communion with Jesus.

I doubt that those who have drifted away, detached themselves from the ecclesial communion of the faithful, will desire to return or to rediscover their connection with the Church. However, let the Holy Spirit surprise us!

As the Pope points out so often, it is the weak and the spiritually sick who need the food, the strength and the comfort of the Eucharist. He writes that it should not be withheld as a punishment for not being able to keep a marriage together. Jesus seeks the sinner and does not

withhold his love.

For too long, the official church has punished people for not being able to reach the high ideals. I welcome all who have suffered exclusion to come forward to be helped, to discern the future spiritually. ***(Fr. Robert note: I, too, welcome anyone in this situation and who has been excluded and hurt. Please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or by phone to meet.)***

The Pope is very aware of the high ideals for marriage and fidelity, and he does not depart from those ideals. In fact, he writes very beautifully about them. They are the ideals that the Church must teach and give witness to, not in a canonical or moralistic way, but in a very positive and grace-filled human way, which he has done.