

**For The Bulletin Of
May 1, 2016**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

From Father Robert

“Why?” the child asks when a parent gives an ultimatum about doing something. “Because I said so,” the parent answers. This has never been a very satisfactory answer for a child; we can imagine a teenager rolling the eyes in response. This answer doesn’t give any explanation for doing what is asked, but simply states a chain of command, a line of authority.

In today’s gospel Jesus’ desire that we keep His words functions something like a “Because I said so.”

Extraordinary gifts are given to us if we keep Jesus’ words. His words rest on the authority of Himself, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. This is about as high that a chain of command, a line of authority can get. It all rests on “If you love Me.”

To enable us to keep His word, Jesus promises us the gift of a divine indwelling – the Holy Spirit – through Whom we are recreated as persons able to live and love as Jesus Himself did. We are a new creation empowered to continue the mission of Jesus in peace and with fearlessness. To be created anew means that we share in the Life of the risen Lord – in a very real way, we share in Jesus’ very identity. Indeed, this is the gift of baptism: that we are made members of the Body of Christ. Only because we share in Jesus’ identity as members of His Body can we love as He does, truly keep His word, and carry on His saving mission.

Jesus’ word is a promise of a new relationship with Him and His Father, where God comes and dwells within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We keep His word, therefore when we embody in our living the fearlessness and peace of Jesus that are evidence of the Presence of the Spirit. We keep His word when we respond to indwelling divine Love with self-giving as modeled by Jesus. The truth and power of the word come from within, and it is the truth and power of the Holy Spirit. We are fearless not because of our own power, but because of the Spirit dwelling within us.

The word of Jesus we are to keep is His command to love as He loves us. Jesus’ word, however, is not simply spoken – “Because I said so” – but is love in action. His love-in-action is the gift of the Spirit of peace, of untroubled hearts, of rejoicing, of believing. His love-in-action is ultimately the gift of the resurrection, of new Life and relationship with Him. Our love-in-action flows from the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and teaching us to keep Jesus’ word-command to love. Our love-in-action is risen Life-made-visible. Jesus’ “Because I said so” is so much more than simply words. It is His own obedience to His Father, His own handing over His Spirit, His own love-in-action. So must it be ours.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Living the paschal mystery is as demanding as loving with the same self-giving as Jesus, and as easy as responding to God’s indwelling as an intimate Friend Who is always with us, never forsakes us, and at all times is there for us giving care and strength. These Sundays before Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Spirit are so

important for our daily Christian living: they remind us that as disciples we never have to feel like the whole task of living the Gospel falls on our shoulders alone. God is always present, dwelling within us, to give us the strength we need to be faithful to Jesus' commands. Only in this way can our everyday lives be fruitful, can we keep Jesus' word as our own word, can we show forth Jesus' love-in-action.

Having listened to the proclamation of God's word at liturgy today, and hopefully reflected upon it, how has God spoken to you?

- This Easter, the word of Jesus that I am being called to keep is...
- The Holy Spirit is teaching me to...
- My love-in-action looks like...

About Liturgy: God's Indwelling

Divine indwelling has been part of our Catholic doctrine from the very beginning. In particular, the sacraments of initiation celebrate a divine love that is so great that God chooses to live within us and among us. In baptism we are plunged into the paschal mystery of Christ, dying to self so that we might rise to new life in Christ. We are sealed in baptism with the gift of the Holy Spirit and strengthened in confirmation to live this new life. In Eucharist we are nourished by Christ's Body and Blood and by eating and drinking so sublime a food and drink that we become what we eat – the Body of Christ in Whom God dwells in glory.

The challenge is that these sacraments remain not simply actions we go through but become dynamic ways of living. This is one reason why we celebrate

liturgy each Sunday – so that we remember Jesus' words and deeds. One practice that might help us make this practical in our daily living – and over the years see real spiritual growth in ourselves – is to make sure we take one thought that leads to particular action in our daily living from each Sunday celebration. A question to ask might be, How, this week, might I express to others that God dwells within me; how does this week's gospel challenge me to live?

The Floral Arrangement before the Altar is placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the birthday and anniversary of ordination of Father Robert. It also honors all the children from our parish receiving First Holy Communion this weekend and also Father Robert's great niece, Madison Campbell, who is receiving First Holy Communion with us today during our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy.

First Eucharist 2016

Congratulations to our children who received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. Let us rejoice and be glad for: **Mary Clarke, Nina Cabanilla, Pedro J. Arce Jr., Maria Arce, Noah Crisologo, Luke Dijanic, Joseph Espinosa, Ryan Francisco, Sophia Galicia, Jasmine Gonzalez, Moraima Gonzalez, Aiden Hamilton, Andrew Hilton, Michael Krywokulsky, Sofia Lucido, Kim Nguyen, Hung (Henry) Nguyen, Think (Justin) Nguyen, Edgar Ortega, Alexis Rayrao, Aquiles Rios, Jacey Travers, George A. Villalobos and Sandy Ann Sison.**

We would also like to honor the catechists who gave of their time, talent and treasure with great joy and

enthusiasm for our children. Thank you to our 1st through 8th grade catechists: **Anita Roe, Anita Saunders, Kathleen Clarke, Maryann Peddicord, Belen Farin, Rowena Cayaban, Marivic Espinosa, Geny Stubbs, Denise Moss, Alicia Perez, Pam Confetti and Ted Fulsaaas.**

Leading the high school Confirmation I and II classes: **Steve Rojek, Cecille Mirano, Candi Amigo and Maryann Peddicord.**

And if you please, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention a very special person who worked and continues to work tirelessly in the background, to make the Faith Formation sessions run smoothly and efficiently. He sets up and breaks down all the classes for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and if there is an event to take place in the Parish Hall any day of the week he coordinates it so that the room is ready for a reception, a meeting or a dinner. He also substitutes for any catechist that is unable to teach their class. He inspires me to be the best that I can be. A tremendous thank you to my hero **Steve Rojek**, the love of my life, the father of my children and the “Wind Beneath my Wings.”

Shalom,
Frances Rojek,
Director of Faith Formation

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Today we welcome the **Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Mary Margaret**, who are present with us for our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. We thank them for their wonderful work and especially their charitable outreach that benefits our parish.

Volunteers in Police Service 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 this coming **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!

CCISCO Forum

As a contributing and participating member of CCISCO – Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organizing – our parish will host an East County Forum for the people seeking seats as Supervisors. Clergy from CCISCO will moderate the evening and present the questions to each of the candidates to find out where each one stands on the various issues that face our county. The evening is free and takes place on Thursday, May 12th, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. I hope you will plan to join us for what will be a very informative and stimulating exchange.

Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO-sponsored Night Walk Against Violence will take place on Friday, May 13th. Please watch my insert and the bulletin for the sight for that evening and we will announce it as soon as that information is given to us.

Our Knights of Columbus Surf 'n Turf Dinner

This weekend the tickets for our Knights of Columbus Surf 'n Turf Dinner are on sale following each liturgy. The dinner includes salad, pasta with choice of sauce, tri tip and deep fried calamari,

and dessert. Beer and wine will be available. There will also be raffle prizes. I hope you will join us and support our Knights.

Pentecost

The conclusion of the Easter Season takes place on the Great Fiftieth Day, Pentecost, the weekend of May 14th and 15th. The color for the day is **RED** and I invite you to wear something RED to contribute to the festivity of our liturgies as well as enhancing the environment. **Fr. Griener** is the homilist that weekend and we will bring the RCIA to a conclusion during the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy.

Thank You

What would we do without all the volunteers who do so many things that make our parish the amazing community of faith that it is! Our thanks to: ...the “beautiful church cleaners”:
Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, June Bajet, Steve Rojek.

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

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.

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.