

For The Bulletin Of May 15, 2016

PENTECOST

From Father Robert

As the old saying goes, “you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.” Horses can have a mind of their own and be stubborn. So can humans! We often need prodding – motivation – to do something, especially if it’s something we don’t enjoy. When it comes to human beings, motivation plays a huge role in why we do anything and how we do everything. Need is a strong motivator...as is love. Another’s enthusiasm and passion can prod us into action.

Admiration for someone’s goodness can move us to follow in his or her footsteps. We tend to do more and be more when we act in union with others. There is strength in numbers, not only to ease the load any one person carries, but also to increase creative insight and ideas, encourage and support each other, and to fill up what is lacking in any individual. We will drink the proverbial water to which we are led when we are thirsty enough or motivated enough.

Today’s feast is really about motivation, the reason why we listen to Jesus and choose to follow Him. We followers of Jesus never stand alone. We have each other to motivate ourselves toward faithful action. But even more, we always have the Spirit Who dwells within and among us and binds us into one. Through the Holy Spirit we all share in the same risen Life, the same saving mission, the same love. There is strength in numbers. There is motivation in numbers. Our strength is

the gift of the Holy Spirit Who binds us in love and unity and love as the one Body of Christ. Our motivation is that with the gift of the Holy Spirit we become one with God’s love in a unique way. We become bigger than ourselves.

In the gospel that we hear today Jesus reminds us that our love binds us together and to Him. Our love motivates us to keep His commandments and word, the measure of our being together in community. Love is a strong motivator. The strength of our love for Jesus is the measure of how well we keep His commandments and word, how well we care for each other. Why and how we keep Jesus’ commandments and word is, in the end, keeping *Him* – the divine Word Who was sent by the Father. Pentecost is a celebration of both the gift of the Holy Spirit and the effects of that gift – we are sharers in the one Body of Christ who take up Jesus’ mission to preach the Good News of salvation.

The Father sent the “Advocate, the Holy Spirit” to teach us “everything.” What is this “everything” we need the Holy Spirit to teach us? Why and how keeping Jesus’ commandments and word is the unconditional condition of loving Him. Why and how this love is the wellspring of our relationship to Jesus and His Father in their Spirit. What the Holy Spirit teaches us, in the end, is why we do anything and how we do everything. How we need Pentecost!

Living The Paschal Mystery

The gift of the Holy Spirit motivates us to live as faithful followers of Jesus who share in His risen Life. This way of living might be so simple as a reassuring touch or helping hand. It might be so

great as making a sacrifice of time to join the parish choir or volunteering for some task that needs to be done for the good of all. Living the Gospel means that we bask in the good gift of God's Life that the Holy Spirit brings. Living the paschal mystery means that this good gift has its cost – we still must die to ourselves in order to be the true Presence of Christ for others.

As we bring the Easter to its conclusion with today's feast, what "movement" has taken place in your life as a result of having celebrated these past great 50 days? Have they made any difference in your life?

- Right now in my life, the Holy Spirit is teaching me...
- When I keep Jesus' commandments and word, I learn that love is...
- The wellspring of my relationship to my family and friends is...to my enemies is...to God is...

About Liturgy: Pentecost – Birthday of the Church?

We have customarily interpreted Pentecost as the "birthday of the church." However, we must take care that we don't trivialize this. The more demanding effect of the birth of the church through the coming of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us and makes us one is that through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we become the missionary Presence of the risen Christ – *we ourselves* continue God's plan of salvation. Any "birthing" that happens is our openness to have the Spirit work through us and motivate us to make present for others, God's life and saving grace.

Congratulations Confirmandi

Last Saturday morning, the high school students of our Faith Formation Program were confirmed in the cathedral.

Through the Laying on of Hands, the Calling Down of the Holy Spirit, and anointing with Sacred Chrism, their Sacraments of Initiation were brought to completion. Our congratulations to: **Chloe Abenoja, Brianna Cabanilla, Melvin Carrillo, Sandra Carrillo, Lisa Marie Cayaban, Maryfrances DiMaggio, Miguel Espinosa, Daphne Francisco, Matthew Hilton, Danielle Mirano, Diantha Ngo, Andrew Nguyen, Madison Perry, Baruch Rios, Phillip Spielman, Roger Spielman, Jason Tanique, and Kyle Thomas.**

The Conclusion of Mystagogia

During our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy this morning we celebrate the conclusion of the Period of Mystagogia, the last portion of the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults. Once again, we congratulate **Tina Costanza and Xochil Perez** who have completed their initiation and now take their place with us as disciples of Jesus, doing their part to help us build the kingdom of God. I would also like to thank the members of the RCIA Team for their presence, support, prayer, and love for the candidates and one another: **Frances Rojek, Carole Miller, Bob Carvalho, and Jeanne Reilly.**

For those who are interested in being received into the church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist), please watch my Insert as well as the bulletin for the start-up dates for the next season of Inquiry.

Evening of Welcome and Discovery

You are invited to join us tomorrow evening, Monday, May 16th for “An Evening of Welcome and Discovery,” in response to the questions that were placed in the Big Red Box. The questions will be answered by a panel of staff members including myself, **Frances Rojek, Director of Faith Formation; Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate for Social Justice; and Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pastoral Associate.** We will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and conclude by 8:30 p.m.

Deanery Planning Process

The next meeting of the combined committees of the Deanery Planning Process will take place on Thursday, May 26th, 7:00 p.m., here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. The representatives from our parish include myself, **Brian McCoy, Pastoral Staff; and Will Avitabile, Chair, Pastoral Council.** Since the last meeting, the subcommittees on Education and Human Needs have met and will report on their progress. Please keep us in prayer as we discern the future of ministry and of the church in the Delta Deanery.

Our Pentecost Environment

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank the members of the Art & Environment Committee for their creativity in once again preparing such a beautiful environment for Pentecost today as well as for the next two weeks and the Feasts of the Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. The environment will fully reflect Ordinary Time (which begins tomorrow) as of the first week of June. Our thanks to: **Monika Kauer, Carole Miller, Denise Moss, Lorraine Lohmeier, Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Pablo Villegas**

and Tom and Stevie Catchings.

Special thanks to Tom and Stevie for bringing the wonderful bakery goods. It is important for you to know that everything used in the creation of this new environment: the peace lilies, Pentecost Banners, the Pentecost Mobile, the fabric panels at the Icons as well as the fabric that was “flown” was completely donated and no funds were taken from the General Account. We are blessed to have parishioners who are so supportive of the work and ministry of the Art & Environment Committee. What a difference their work makes in supporting our worship!

Thank You

Because of the generosity and stewardship of so many of our parishioners, we are able to save literally thousands of dollars. They demonstrate regularly the use of their time and talent to care for our building and to further many of our responsibilities and ministries.

Our thanks to the following who care for and maintain the church and parish hall: **Mila Rodrigo, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Carole Miller, KathyRomeo, Jun Bajet, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Gino Ramos, Mary Ewing, Robert Goncalves, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Mila Rodrigo.**

....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, 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.