

**For The Bulletin Of
June 19, 2016**

**THE 12TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

Francis: Orlando killings 'new manifestation of homicidal folly and senseless hatred'

The killings of at least 50 people at a nightclub in Orlando, Fla., have left Pope Francis with "the deepest feelings of horror and condemnation, of pain and turmoil before this new manifestation of homicidal folly and senseless hatred," the Vatican said in a statement Sunday.

The pontiff, the statement said, "joins the families of the victims and all of the injured in prayer and in compassion." The full statement made by Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, Sunday evening in Rome:

The terrible massacre that has taken place in Orlando, with its dreadfully high number of innocent victims, has caused in Pope Francis, and in all of us, the deepest feelings of horror and condemnation, of pain and turmoil before this new manifestation of homicidal folly and senseless hatred. Pope Francis joins the families of the victims and all of the injured in prayer

and in compassion. Sharing in their indescribable suffering he entrusts them to the Lord so they may find comfort. We all hope that ways may be found, as soon as possible, to effectively identify and contrast the causes of such terrible and absurd violence which so deeply upsets the desire for peace of the American people and of the whole of humanity.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord;
And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

From Father Tom Bonacci, C.P.

Justice, reason, and respect demand that we do not hastily react to the horrific events that happened in Orlando, Florida, during the morning hours of June 12, 2016. But we cannot wait for news reports and official investigations to express our outrage and concern. At the present moment, over fifty people have been killed and fifty more injured in a senseless shooting. The target of these vicious attacks is the LGBTQ Community which is often threatened, condemned, and marginalized.

Our hearts go out to the people of Orlando who have prided themselves on being a welcoming community. The Interfaith Peace Project stands proudly in solidarity with the LGBTQ Community and pledges to continue to do all in our power to continue fostering understanding, acceptance, and respect.

We urge people of faith to reexamine their understanding of sexual orientation insuring that their teachings and practices do not endanger the lives of very real people. The time has come once again to end the prejudice, fear, and hateful rhetoric that often occur when speaking about people who belong to so-called sexual minorities.

We call upon political leaders and governmental officials not to reduce this tragedy to political opportunism. We caution everyone about labeling religious people, immigrants, and other minorities with names and slogans that enable unscrupulous people to react with hatred, scorn, and violence.

For now we mourn and pray to God that this violence ends. Together we must work for what is right and just.

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.

From Father Robert – Reflecting On Today's Gospel

We often say things, the implications of which only become clear as time passes. We might promise to help someone move to a new home, only later to find out how much stuff they have, how much packing still needs to be done, how much more time-consuming our offer is than we originally thought. We might say that we will stick by a friend no matter what, only later to discover that to do so might entail jeopardizing our values.

When Peter in today's gospel said to Jesus that He is "The Christ of God," did Peter really understand the implications of what he was saying?

The exchange between Jesus and His disciples took place within a very significant context: "Jesus was praying in solitude." It was out of this prayer that He asked His disciples, "who do you say that I am?" and revealed that His very identity entailed suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. Our own prayer is to lead us to clearer understanding of who we are, and to the revelation that our very identity as

disciples entails denying self, taking up our daily cross, and losing our life for the sake of others. Dare we pray? Dare we ask Jesus, "who do *You* say that *I* am?" Dare we accept the identity Jesus offers us and the implications of being faithful to that identity?

Prayer – a personal encounter with God – helps us come to a clearer understanding of who we are and enables us to say "yes" to following Jesus, no matter what the implications. Jesus' mission is an extension of Who Jesus is – Savior. We usually think of Jesus' mission as teaching and preaching, healing and working miracles and so it was. But underlying these activities is the ultimate one – His suffering, death, and resurrection. So it is with us. When we say "yes" to our identity as the Body of Christ, we spend our whole lives grasping the implications: with Jesus, we must take up our cross daily. This means that our life is marked by the same self-giving love as Jesus' life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The first reading from the prophet Zechariah mentions "a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness." For us Christians we naturally think of the baptismal font that purifies and cleanses us. Through baptism we share in Jesus' identity and mission – we are plunged into the waters of baptism, dying to self and rising to new life in Christ and thus are made members of the Body of Christ. Our own identity and mission is that of Jesus: to die to self so that we are raised to new Life. Following Jesus has its cost.

These waters of baptism don't flow just once. The ritual is an action that aptly

describes an ongoing sacramental reality in our lives: we are constantly being washed clean. One way to do this, of course, is through confessing our sins either in prayer itself or in sacramental confession. We sometimes forget, though, that good works also cleanse us of our sins! So, the denying self and carrying our daily cross mentioned in the gospel are cleansing activities that lead us to forgiveness and new Life.

Baptismal purification is also tied into our Christian identity. We are not only freed from sin, but are made members of Christ's Body. As such, we might expect to happen to us the same things that happened to Jesus. To be practical, that means that when we live our baptismal promises we can expect to be misunderstood, ridiculed, shunned, etc. Paschal mystery living has its demands (dying to self) and rewards (new Life). Self-giving is always life-giving. Self-giving is always love-giving.

- My prayer is an encounter with God that reveals to me that I am...
- I find it most difficult to shoulder my daily cross when...to deny self when...to give my life for another when...
- My prayer is most fruitful and life-sustaining for another when...

About Liturgy: The Cross

The cross has been a Christian symbol of self-denial, self-sacrifice, redemption, and identity with Christ from at least the fourth century. It has become the primary symbol of Christianity. The cross leads processions and is venerated with incense as are the altar and Paschal Candle. A cross with a corpus is to be

on or near the altar during the celebration of Holy Eucharist which helps us relate the Sacrifice of the Mass to the sacrifice of Calvary.

In the Eastern Church, the custom has been to use a cross rather than a crucifix (a cross with a corpus), often studded with jewels or richly decorated. Sometimes an image of Christ the High Priest may be used. The cross in this context celebrates Christ's victory over death and sin and is a symbol of triumph. In the Western Church the custom has been to use a crucifix with an image of the dying or deceased Jesus. The cross in this context reminds us of Jesus' self-sacrificing love demonstrated through His passion and death.

Father's Day

Today we join our families in congratulating and thanking fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, adoptive fathers, step-fathers, foster fathers, and all those men who so faithfully and lovingly support and give life to their families. In honor of all fathers, the parish is making a donation to the Building Fund in your honor. A matching donation is also being made by our Knights of Columbus Council. Also, at the conclusion of each liturgy, a special blessing from the Book of Blessings is being given. Happy Father's Day!

Installation Update

The list of those responding to the Invitation has grown to the point where the Office Staff is only able to put people calling in on a "Waiting List." The tent will only hold 350 people. However, everyone is invited to the Liturgy of Sung Evening Prayer and

Installation which begins in the church at 3:00 p.m.

Last Sunday, **Marla Plurkowski** was available following liturgies to invite your participation in the reception by providing some of the things that will be needed. The list will continue to be available following liturgies today. Thank you for what you are doing to help make this historic event wonderful and memorable for everyone.

The Deanery Pilgrimage

Please be sure to make your reservation to join us for the Deanery Pilgrimage to the Cathedral on Saturday, August 27th. We have chartered two busses which will be able to take 110 parishioners from the parish to the Cathedral and back. The cost for the roundtrip is \$20 per person. We will depart the parish parking lot at 8:15 a.m. in order to arrive at the Cathedral by 9:15 a.m. The Procession up the Pilgrim's Path begins at 9:30 a.m., through the Jubilee Year Holy Doors, into the Cathedral, with Eucharist being celebrated beginning at 10:00 a.m. The busses will return you to the parish by 1:30 p.m.

Each parish delegation will be led into the Cathedral by the individual parish's banner. The Choir will be composed of singers from the choirs of each of the Deanery Parishes along with instrumentalists. The liturgy will be multi-lingual and multi-cultural to represent the rich heritage of cultures and languages in our Deanery.

The Presider and Homilist for the Liturgy is **Fr. Mark Wiesner, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore and one of the Missionaries of Mercy commissioned by Francis,**

Bishop of Rome. The priests of the Deanery will concelebrate the liturgy and other liturgical ministries will be fulfilled by members of the Deanery parishes. This promises to be a truly memorable experience. I hope you will join us.

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

The next Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup will take place on Saturday, July 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please watch the bulletin and my insert for the site of this month's cleanup.

Knights of Columbus Installation of Officers

Our Knights of Columbus will be having their Installation of New Officers on Tuesday, July 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the church, followed by a reception in the parish hall. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to assume their offices and leadership of our Council. Our thanks for the outstanding job done by the outgoing officers.

Thank You

...to those who clean and maintain the church and parish hall: **Nancy Santos, Mercy Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, Emilia Freking, "Jun" Bajet, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Bob Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.** ...to **Dilcia Aparicio** who faithfully and lovingly washes and irons the Sacred Linens each week.

...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: **Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, 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, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza and Dilcia Aparicio.**

Concord Housing Forum at St. Bonaventure Church

Everyone should have access to affordable housing, tenant protections, and a solid paycheck to pay for your home! Join fellow workers, community members, faith leaders, housing experts, and elected leaders as we come together to tackle the housing crisis. Hear proposals from experts, learn your rights, and share your experiences. It's going to take all of us to push our elected leaders to create solutions!

Sat. June 25 * 9am-12:30pm
St. Bonaventure Church
5562 Clayton Rd, Concord, CA 94521
Childcare, Breakfast, and Snacks provided!

To RSVP or for more info, contact Kristi Laughlin at 510-847-2399

Project Starfish Update

Our family has begun the long process of assimilating into their new country. At every contact with our Family to Family Team the entire family constantly expresses their thanks and appreciation for the incredible generosity of our community. Finding permanent housing remains the immediate goal. Everything else like

jobs and schooling will flow as soon as they are situated. The family is working on one hopeful housing solution. The results of their efforts in regard to this potential solution will hopefully be resolved in the next week or so. In the meantime we need to keep searching. If anyone has a contact or knows about potential housing in the Concord, Pleasant Hill or Martinez area, please contact Brian in the parish office (778-0768).

When their lives are in a more stable position, the family is anxious to meet with our entire community to express their gratitude. At Wednesday's meeting, the family had the opportunity to tour St. Ignatius of Antioch. Friendly discussions about the similarities and differences between our faith traditions continued to 11:00 PM!

Financial support is welcome. Money may not be given directly to the family. Funds received will be forwarded to Catholic Charities of the East Bay and designated for the support of our family. Checks may be made out to St. Ignatius of Antioch. Please write "Refugee" on the memo line. Contributions may be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the Sunday plate collection in a separate envelope labeled "Refuge Outreach."

Summer Fun Party for Seniors

Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services will be hosting an upcoming event for seniors in our community which will take place on Monday, June 20th. All first-time Bay Point Contra Costa Café participants (age 60+) will receive a free hot lunch. For more information, please contact Sharon Fitzgerald at (925) 937-8311 x 501.

