

**For The Bulletin Of
June 26, 2016**

**THE 13TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Some people can be so bullheaded! They choose to stay the course at any cost. These folks are not simply stubborn; they are obstinate in a foolish or stupid way. Children can be bullheaded about who can or cannot play with them, based on whom they like. An employer might be bullheaded about who can use a conference room and for how long. A student might be bullheaded about choosing to do homework sloppily.

In today's gospel, when we hear that Jesus was "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, "we might be tempted to think He was really bullheaded. After all, "Jerusalem" represents death, the end of life's journey. They did not understand that Jerusalem represents more than the end of a journey, more than death. Jerusalem symbolizes the new Life beyond death.

The journey Jesus invites us to take is the journey through death to new Life. We know the cost, even better than the disciples knew, even as we also know the new Life that awaits beyond. We need to get started on this journey, and stay on an unswerving path. We must be single-minded, but not bullheaded. We must travel this journey with full understanding of that to which we have committed ourselves. We also take this journey with full understanding of what is "beyond" Jerusalem.

Following Jesus requires much more than simply walking with Him from village to village. Following Jesus calls for being "resolutely determined" to journey with Him all the way to Jerusalem – and beyond. Any excuses, no matter how seemingly legitimate, keep us from letting go of where we are and embracing where we must go. To be on this journey requires total self-surrender to what Jerusalem holds as well as to "being taken up" into what is "Beyond" Jerusalem: the new Jerusalem, "the kingdom of God" fulfilled.

The challenge of today's gospel is for us to be as resolutely determined to accept the dying to self that is necessary to follow Jesus and cooperate with Him in establishing God's reign as Jesus was resolutely determined to go to His own suffering and death. We can be neither naïve, stupid, nor self-excusing. To be "fit for the kingdom of God" we must keep our eyes on Jesus and our destiny. We must let Him be our motivation to stay the course. The course: Jerusalem. The price: dying. The stakes: new Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The context for this Sunday's gospel is that Jesus is "resolutely determined" to go to Jerusalem and this sets the tone for the next months of Ordinary Time for us. On our own journey to the end of the liturgical year in November (hardly on our minds in June!) we, too, must be resolute about hearing the gospel faithfully and following Jesus, even when that means we, too, are going to "Jerusalem," which symbolizes the ongoing dying to self that is what living the Paschal mystery really is.

We hear the gospel faithfully when that gospel is lived in our everyday circumstances. Hearing is more than words going into our ears; it demands of us resolute action. The gospels often are challenging. This one challenges us to go to Jerusalem with Jesus, and be His faithful followers by proclaiming that “the kingdom of God” is at hand.

- Being “resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem” with Jesus entails for me...
- One thing I must let go of in order to journey to Jerusalem with Jesus more faithfully is...
- Beyond “Jerusalem,” God promises me...

About Liturgy: Processions at Eucharist

Processions are like mini-journeys – they lead us from one place to another. They always have a goal. During Eucharist there are actually four processions, each with its own goal. Although the General Instruction to the Roman Missal refers to the four processions, it gives no explanation or theology for them. The following may help fill in this “space.”

1. ***Entrance Procession.*** This procession at the beginning of Eucharist is symbolic of the gathering of all the people into a unity for a common purpose of worship and transformation. The entrance procession symbolizes our journey from being individual members of the Body of Christ to being the Body of Christ gathered around the one Head, Christ made visible in His church.

2. ***Gospel Procession.*** The procession with the Book of the Gospels is an opportunity for the assembly to acclaim the Presence of Christ in the proclaimed word. It also is a symbolic expression of their journey from hearing God’s word to putting it into practice.. We are now invited to turn toward the gospel book, reverence it with a profound bow, and follow its journey to the place of proclamation as a sign of respect.
3. ***Procession With The Gifts.*** The procession and presentation of the gifts symbolize the gift of ourselves presented to God for transformation into being more perfect members of the Body of Christ, just as the bread and wine are transformed into being the Real Presence of Christ. As the gifts are placed on the Altar we place ourselves on the Altar and offer ourselves with Christ in sacrifice. It is symbolic of the ongoing journey of self-sacrifice that characterizes Christian living.
4. ***The Communion Procession.*** The Communion Procession symbolizes our journey to the messianic table, that heavenly banquet in which we already share by partaking in Jesus’ Body and Blood at Holy Communion, and also in which we will forever share when we die and go to heaven. This procession most clearly proclaims what it means when the Communion lines actually move forward toward the Altar.

Welcome Father Ricardo Chavez!

This weekend we welcome Father Ricardo Chavez who is the Presider and Homilist. He will also preside and preach for the Daily Eucharist on Monday and Wednesday. There will be a communion service on Friday. I am away and will return on Friday afternoon, July 1st. Please express your gratitude to Father Ricardo for being with us and leading us in prayer.

Installation

Next Sunday afternoon, I will be installed as The Third Pastor of St. Ignatius of Antioch. It has been a long-awaited moment and I am deeply grateful for your support, prayers, and love for me. The Installation takes place in the context of Sung Evening Prayer. After the Evening Hymn, the Dean Emeritus, **Father Jerry Brown**, will preside for the actual Installation, following which I will preside for the remainder of the liturgy. Our homilist will be **Father George Griener, S.J.** The music will be under the direction of our Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence, **Don Pearson**, along with our Parish Choir, Cantors, and Guest Singers. Priests from the Diocese as well as Protestant Clergy and their wives will also be present and participate in the Procession. Following the liturgy, there will be a wonderful celebration in the parish tent under the direction of **Marla Plurkowski and our Social Events Committee and the Installation Committee**. I look forward to celebrating this historic event with you.

Antioch Neighborhood Clean Up

On Saturday, July 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I hope you will join me for the next Antioch Neighborhood Clean Up, sponsored by our Antioch Police

Department and the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). **Volunteers should meet/check in at the Antioch Police Department at 8:30 a.m.** The areas that we will be concentrating on are W. 4th, 5th and 6th Streets encompassing the 1100 through 1400 blocks, including Prosserville Park. All necessary equipment will be provided by the VIPS. Come and have a great time, meet new friends, and help clean up a part of our city. I hope to see you there.

Knights of Columbus Installation

On Tuesday evening, July 5th, our Knights of Columbus will have the Installation of New Officers for the coming Columbian Year, 2016 – 2017. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to assume office. We are also deeply grateful for the service of the outgoing officers who have done such a wonderful job of leading and guiding the work of the Knights over the past year.

Thank You

We continue to be grateful for the volunteers of our parish who give so much of themselves and their time to help us with so many aspects of our parish life. Many thanks to: **Mila Rodrigo, Angela Bueno, Cathy Romeo, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Jack Goncalves, and Emilia Freking** for cleaning the church and parish hall last weekend.

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Bob Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Gino Ramos and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who launders and irons the Sacred Linens each week.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration

of Eucharist each week: **Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos, and Rose Salamanca.**

...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, 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 and Dave Costanza.**

Project Starfish Update

Our family continues to be well. While finding permanent housing remains the immediate goal, there are a couple of possibilities coming available in July. The lack of affordable housing is clearly impacting our efforts. 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.

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.”

Immigration Forum

When: Thursday, June 30, 2016
5:30 PM

Where: Catholic Charities
217 Harbour Way,
Richmond

The forum will focus on the recent Supreme Court actions and the Executive Orders signed by President Obama dealing with immigration. A continued push for just immigration reform will also be on the agenda.