

**For The Bulletin Of
July 3, 2016**

**THE 14TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

A really good spiritual director, a really good listener, a really good counselor all have at least one thing in common: they quietly take in words, body language, eye movement and then respond appropriately. They read people and situations quickly and accurately. Being in a conversation with those who are glancing at their cell phone every other second sends an important message to us: they are not giving full attention to the conversation and the phone is more important than the conversation. Even worse, the phone is more important than we are. This situation usually draws a rather negative response from us. We might roll our eyes, stop the conversation, or even walk away from the phone-bound person. Interactions and responses are part of our everyday living. Often they are inconsequential enough. Sometimes, however, interaction and response have long-lasting consequences.

Today's gospel is about Jesus' disciples reading people and responses. The interaction-response has long-lasting and life-changing consequences.

When Jesus sends disciples forth as "laborers for his harvest," He predicts two responses to their presence. Either disciples will be welcomed and will be able to minister fruitfully, or they will be rejected and their ministry becomes judgment against the unwelcoming town. In either case, however, the

"kingdom of God is at hand." In either case, the acceptance or rejection of the disciples makes clear that the "kingdom of God" is not dependent upon any one response, but upon God's gracious gift of Presence. How so? Whether accepted or rejected, disciples "harvest" the "kingdom of God" by their very presence, by their very proclamation of Jesus' name, by their very fidelity to Jesus' mission. No wonder disciples rejoice! Their rejoicing is an acknowledgment that God is present and working through them. The "kingdom of God" is present in the very persons of those who take up Jesus' invitation to be laborers in bringing about an abundant harvest.

The abundance of the harvest is guaranteed in two ways. If Jesus' disciples are not welcomed, they are not to quit the journey but continue it. Part of the ministry of laborer-disciples is the very "going" – the disciples' faithfulness to Jesus' sending them forth to proclaim that the "kingdom of God is at hand." While response to Gospel proclamation is obviously important, there can be no response at all unless disciples go forth on the journey, proclaim the Gospel faithfully, and rely on God's gift of divine Presence through them. We must respond to God's gift of Presence to us before we can call forth response from others. This divine Presence is the source of disciples' rejoicing.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The establishment of God's reign is already an in-breaking of the final glory that will be ours – our "names are already written in heaven." References to the abundance of the end times are captured in the "harvest" metaphor Jesus uses. Jesus looks at the harvest and sees

abundance, fulfillment. Some of this abundance and fulfillment is surely realized in our own taking up of Jesus' mission to bring peace, to heal, and to dispel evil. The challenge of the gospel is that we don't get so lost in doing Jesus' mission that we forget being faithful disciples is in itself already an in-breaking of God's kingdom. Living the paschal mystery means that we let go of even the responses others might give to our Gospel living and surrender ourselves to be laborers for the harvest of peace and Presence.

- For me, the "Kingdom of God" is...
- I experience being sent forth as a laborer for Jesus' harvest of the "kingdom of God" when...My response is...
- As Jesus' disciple, I am welcomed when...I am rejected when...In either case, Jesus says to me...

The Floral Arrangements at the Altar and Ambo are placed to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Michael Angelo Lamendola by his wife, Dorothy, and in honor of Father Robert's Installation as Pastor by Brian and Kathy Utting.

Installation Today

At 3:00 p.m. this afternoon we will gather for the liturgy of Sung Evening Prayer during which I will be installed as The Third Pastor of the parish. Presiding for the Installation will be **The Very Reverend Jerry Brown, Dean Emeritus**, with the Homily being given by **Father George Griener, SJ**. Music will be under the direction of our Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence, **Don Pearson**, assisted by

Organist **William Vaughan, Dean of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Director of Music for Church of the Assumption, San Leandro**, and our **Parish Choir, Cantors, and Guest Singers**. Following the liturgy, there will be a festive reception held in the parish tent.

This is an historic moment in the life of our parish. The first pastor was the founding pastor, Father Robert Ponciroli; the second Pastor was Father Vincent Cotter, and in between those pastorates were Parochial Administrators Fathers Anthony Harcar, Paul Divine, and Geoffrey Baraan, as well as Parochial Vicars Ramiro Flores and Leo Edgerly.

We have all waited for this day for a very long time. God has guided and directed us and will continue to do so. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life and ministry to serve alongside you here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. God has done great things with and through us and will continue to open up new directions and ministries as the needs arise. I am humbled and honored by all who will join us today: parishioners from our parish, parishioners from each parish I have served in the past, long-time friends, brother priests, fellow clergy colleagues from other denominations and interfaith groups. Our celebration of Sung Evening Prayer will allow all of us to be united in our One Lord.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and love for me for these past eleven years as your Administrator and I know that I can count on them for all the years yet to be.

I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to prepare today's reception: **Marla Plurkowski and the Social Events Committee Members, our parishioners who have donated various items for the reception, our Knights of Columbus, all those who set up, decorated, and will clean up afterward, Louis Zandonella Catering who is preparing the reception meal, and all those who have contributed so generously to the Building Fund in honor of the occasion.** May God continue to bless us all as we go forward as Pastor and People.

Knights of Columbus Officers Installation

This coming Tuesday, July 5th, is the Annual Installation of Officers for our Knights of Columbus. It begins in the church at 6:00 p.m. and is followed by a reception in the parish hall. My personal thanks to the out-going officers who have done such an outstanding job this past year as well as congratulations to the in-coming officers for the Columbian Year 2016 – 2017.

Annual Police Chaplains' Conference and Training

Next Sunday, July 10th, I will fly to Albuquerque, New Mexico for this year's Annual Police Chaplains' Training Conference. While I am away, Fr. Ricardo Chavez will preside for the Daily Eucharist. I will return on the afternoon of Friday, July 15th.

Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up

The next Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up will take place on Saturday, August 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. It is sponsored by the Antioch Police Department Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). All the equipment is provided

by the VIPS. We have a great time, make new friends, and do a good job of helping to beautify our city. I hope you will put the date on your calendar and plan to join us.

Jubilee Year of Mercy Deanery Pilgrimage

Now is the time to reserve your space on one of the buses that we have chartered to go to the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy Deanery Pilgrimage on Saturday, August 27th. The cost is \$20 per person roundtrip. We will leave the parish at 8:15 a.m. in order to be at the Cathedral by 9:15 a.m. The procession of parishes up the Pilgrim's Path begins at 9:30 a.m., passing through the Holy Year Door of the Cathedral, and a multi-cultural/multi-lingual celebration of Holy Eucharist beginning at 10:00 a.m. We invite you to wear traditional cultural dress to enhance the celebration of the liturgy. Music for the Eucharist is under the direction of our very own **Don Pearson**, with a choir made up of singers from each of the 8 deanery parishes. This will be the first time in the history of the Deanery that we have come together like this. The clergy of the deanery will concelebrate the liturgy with **Fr. Mark Wiesner** who is one of the Missionaries of Mercy commissioned by Francis, Bishop of Rome, for the Jubilee Year. Please call the parish office to reserve your space on the bus and make your payment.

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: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin and Dilcia Aparicio.**