

**For The Bulletin Of  
July 17, 2016**

**THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN  
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

***From Father Robert***

Attentiveness can be challenging. An older sister is trying to finish a term paper while her little brother keeps pestering her to play. Friends are out for a nice dinner together to catch up on news and one keeps answering her cell phone. The dog keeps barking to be let out while the owner is riveted to the baseball game on television. To be attentive – especially to be attentive to another person – means that we focus, that we eliminate distractions, that we allow one thing to command our full attention.

Today's gospel is about attentiveness. Martha is attentive about getting food prepared and serving; Mary is attentive about listening to her Guest. Both are doing good things. However, one is choosing the "better part."

Jesus tells Martha in the gospel that "there is need of only one thing." What is it? On the surface, the answer would seem to be "listening to Him speak," as Mary is doing. Even this is not enough, however. We must also heed how Jesus judges Martha: "you are anxious and worried about many things." The "one thing" is to be single-minded, single-hearted, open-minded, open-hearted. The "one thing" is to surrender ourselves to Jesus' Presence, whether sitting or standing, resting or working, receiving or giving.

The gospel is about hosts and guest hospitality, but Jesus puts an unparalleled twist on the notion of hospitality. Martha's "hospitality" was made edgy because of her becoming burdened with the cooking and serving and only focusing on that, losing sight of Jesus. Martha settles for being only a servant (and complaining about it at that!) while Jesus is looking for disciples. Mary's hospitality was more gracious than Martha's because she focused her attention on Jesus: "sat beside the Lord at His feet listening to Him." The surprise is that Jesus affirms that the "better part" is to be attentive to His Presence. The "better part" is to be a disciple, attuned to the Master!

A welcoming hospitality implies an "at-homeness" and belonging that parallels the unique relationship of disciple to Jesus. A welcoming hospitality does not mean choosing either serving or listening. It means that whatever we are doing, we are attentive to Jesus' Presence. Sometimes listening and learning about the everyday tasks of life and serving others, as Martha is doing, is what we must choose. Jesus judges us not so much for choosing either listening or serving but for choosing to be attentive to His Presence.

***Living The Paschal Mystery***

There are many ways that Jesus is present to us if we take the time to be attentive to His Presence. We usually address living the paschal mystery in terms of how we die to ourselves in our everyday living. Today's gospel suggests a radically different – and complementary – way of living the paschal mystery: being attentive to Jesus' abiding Presence. Practically speaking, this means being attentive to

the proclamation of the Scriptures – especially the Gospel – during the celebration of Eucharist. It means taking the time to be with Jesus in prayer – not just saying memorized prayers – but actually being quiet and listening to how Jesus speaks to our hearts. It means hearing Jesus in the cry of another for help. There is truly a great deal of self-sacrificing in the letting go of our busyness in order to be attentive to Jesus’ Presence and see Him in all circumstances of our daily living.

How have today’s scriptures and homily challenged you?

- When being present to Jesus, I am more like Martha when...like Mary when...
- Jesus judges me “anxious and worried about many things” when I...
- The “one thing” I need is...To receive it, I must surrender...

***About Liturgy: Hospitality Ministers***

Most parishes and liturgical communities have hospitality ministers – whether they are called that or greeters, ushers, or some combination of all these. Although we Catholics could certainly take some lessons in church hospitality from our Protestant sisters and brothers (it is only in recent church renovations that we are providing for such simple human necessities as bathrooms and cloakrooms), we must also take care that our hospitality ministry doesn’t limit what the gospel for this Sunday implies.

Hospitality at church is far more than a pleasant greeting and welcome (although surely these are important aspects of the ministry). Hospitality ministers are called to understand themselves first of

all as disciples and, like Mary in the gospel, are to assume in their lives and ministry a listening stance toward Jesus and a practical attentiveness to His abiding Presence. The ministry points to Christ’s Presence in the community, emphasizes all are welcome because all are members of the Body of Christ, and helps the assembling church members to prepare to *listen* to Jesus speak to our hearts during the liturgy. Hospitality ministry is more than a practical convenience or a social nicety; it is an expression of Jesus’ own ministry that recognizes the other’s dignity as a member of the Body of Christ.

***About Liturgical Music – The Role of the Responsorial Psalm, Part I***

One way to look at the role of the responsorial psalm is to see it as a bridge between the first reading and the gospel. The image of a bridge conveys both movement forward and connectedness, and accords with the principle that the climax of the Liturgy of the Word is the gospel for which the preceding elements prepare us.

The movement forward aspect of the bridge metaphor implies that we begin the Liturgy of the Word in one place and cross over to another. There is a journey here. The connectedness aspect of the metaphor indicates that the beginning and ending of this journey are related. The starting point and the ending point form opposing shorelines. What we cross over in between varies; sometimes it is moving water, sometimes it is a valley bursting with grain, and sometimes it is a dry gulch or even a frighteningly deep canyon.

The crossing- over is not a journey through time from the Old Testament to

the New Testament, but a journey of transformation. We begin the Liturgy of the Word standing on the threshold of a new moment of encounter with the Word of God and we cross over to a new level of self-understanding as the Body of Christ. The structural element that carries us from one way of being to another is the responsorial psalm.

### ***Installation Gifts To The Building Fund***

I am overwhelmed with the generosity of so many parishioners and friends who honored the occasion of the Installation with contributions to our Building Fund. On Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, I received a report detailing those gifts totaling in excess of **\$13,000!** Again, a heartfelt expression of gratitude and thanks for your thoughtfulness and supporting our efforts to build our much needed and long-awaited parish hall. Please see Page 2 of today's bulletin for an update on the total amount of funds raised and in the Building Fund Account.

### ***Deanery Planning Process***

The next meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Needs for the Deanery Planning Process takes place this coming Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in our parish hall. The representatives on the subcommittee include myself, **Brian McCoy, Carolyn Krantz, and Will Avitable.**

### ***Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up***

The next Antioch Neighborhood Clean-up, sponsored by our Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) will take place on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please watch my insert and the bulletin for the specific site.

### ***The 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### ***Volunteers – Stewardship of Time – Recognition***

How blessed we are that so many parishioners share in the care of our facilities each week. Our thanks to: **Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Mercy Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, and Steve Rojek** who clean both the church and parish hall.

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert 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: **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, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin and Dilcia Aparicio.**

### ***Project Starfish Update***

The Aljanabi Family continues to do well. Of the many challenges facing the family, housing remains the number one challenge. If you have contacts with property owners who may be willing to assist, please contact Brian in the parish office. The family has relatives living in Martinez, and so the cities of Concord or Martinez are preferred; however, other East County locations will be considered as well.

Please keep the Aljanabi family in your prayers this coming week.