

**For The Bulletin Of
July 24, 2016**

**THE 17TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

In an early church writing called the *Didache* (The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles; probably from the early second century), we have the first “commandment” about prayer: to pray the Our Father “as the Lord bid us in His gospel...pray in this way three times a day.” The *Didache* doesn’t say *when* the three times a day are to be, but presumably at traditional prayer times: upon rising, at midday, upon retiring. This prayer has been in the hearts of Christians since the early disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. He gave them words. But He also gave them much more. Jesus, in today’s gospel, gives us a way to address God as “Father,” how we ought to pray (with perseverance), and why we pray (because God gives us all “good gifts”). Jesus teaches us that prayer is and must be from oneself, very personal. Prayer is a gift of self. Jesus’ disciples want Him to teach them to pray “just as John taught his disciples.” Jesus’ couldn’t teach them the prayer of John, however, because he was not John. He was Himself, and would teach a prayer that is the very gift of Himself to us. Jesus’ prayer to His Father flows from Who He is – the One Who praises, intercedes, forgives, reconciles, and protects. In this He gives us a pattern for our prayer, even if we do not use these very words. Our prayer flows from our physical needs, our emotional attachments and relationships, our spiritual desires. In the end, however, Jesus’ prayer is for

His Father to “give the Holy Spirit.” Then, no request is too great, no seeking is unwarranted, no door is locked. The Holy Spirit transforms our prayer – and us – into turning ourselves toward God, into allowing the prayer to change us into those who seek only what God desires for us.

The two examples that Jesus uses (neighborly friendship and father-son kinship) reveal that what is always granted through prayer is deeper relationship with God and others. Jesus teaches us that the One to Whom we pray is our “Father” Whose love and care for us is unlimited. This deeply intimate and personal relationship with God inspires in us the confidence (“how much more...”) to pray with “persistence” and the realization that what we pray for is not so important as the fact that we address God in such intimate terms. The prayer always deepens our relationship with God and this is already an answer to what we need. The prayer transforms our relationships with each other – opening us to forgiveness and reconciliation – and this is surely an answer to who we are and wish to become.

Living The Paschal Mystery

There is nothing wrong with prayer for specific needs; after all, we do it every Liturgy at the Universal Prayer and during the Eucharistic Prayer, not to mention our own personal and daily prayers of petition. Today’s gospel challenges us to go beyond specific needs and get to the larger picture: a focus on the gifts God offers us always in prayer, and often in surprising and unexpected ways. What inspires confidence in us is not whether God gives us what we specifically ask for in

prayer; our confidence comes from the Spirit Who dwells within and establishes a most intimate relationship between God and us – shared life.

Unlike small children who seem to have a capacity to stay endlessly with some tasks, most of us need to develop a habit of daily prayer. With such busy schedules, this can be difficult. Choosing a specific time and being persistent about honoring that time for prayer helps.

- Jesus' prayer reveals Him to be... When I pray His prayer, I become...
- I need the Holy Spirit when... I pray for the Holy Spirit to...
- In my personal prayer, I ask God for... God gives me...

About Liturgy: Liturgy As Prayer

We call liturgy a celebration, a ritual act, the communal worship of the people. We process during liturgy, sing, acclaim, proclaim. Liturgy is filled with many different kinds of activities. This Sunday's gospel challenges us to consider whether we approach liturgy as *prayer*. True, we pray the Our Father just before Holy Communion, the prayer that Jesus taught us and we hear about in today's gospel. Since this is the prayer that Jesus taught, we rightly think of its pre-eminence. At the same time, we cannot forget that *all* of liturgy is prayer, from the beginning Sign of the Cross to the concluding Blessing and Dismissal. A prayerful attitude should mark how we celebrate liturgy.

Why is it important to insist that liturgy is prayer? An attitude of prayer keeps us focused on the relationship with God that we share. It helps us realize that we

don't celebrate liturgy because of any power we have, but because God invites us and gives us the Holy Spirit Who enables us to respond with praise and thanksgiving.

True, different kinds of prayer mark our liturgies. Sometimes we pray aloud together, such as during the Responsorial Psalm and the Our Father. Sometimes we are given silent time during which to pour our hearts out to God very personally in prayer such as in the quiet time after each scripture reading and after receiving Holy Communion. Sometimes we actively listen as another voices our prayer, such as during the presidential prayers (Collect, Prayer Over the Gifts, Prayer After Communion) and the Eucharistic Prayer. Surely our acclaiming and hymn singing is also prayer. But for all these and other types of prayer during the Eucharistic Liturgy, the real challenge is to make the *whole Eucharist the one prayer of the one Body of Christ*.

About Liturgical Music: Role of the Responsorial Psalm, Part II

How does the responsorial psalm act as a bridge between the first reading and the gospel? How does the psalm help us surrender to the transformation the gospel calls for? Part of what happens is that the movement within the psalm text itself – its internal changes of mood, focus, content, and metaphor – parallel the movement meant to take place within us as we respond to the Word of God. There is an integral relationship between the process of transformation and conversion within the heart, mind, and behavior of the original psalmist as he or she was responding to the actions of God, the and the change which takes place within us as we pray that psalm

within the context of this Liturgy of the Word. One of the implications here is that the role of the psalmist is very important. The psalmist must personally embody the transformation unfolding in the psalm and call us to that transformation. This is no small task, and certainly one that involves far more than singing with a nice voice.

Each week we are invited to explore the relationship between the psalm and the readings of the day. Sometimes the connection is obvious, other times it is not so clear, but it is always there. Identifying this connection and reflecting on it deepens our appreciation of the role of the psalm. Only then can we sing it with understanding and surrender to its transformative power.

Police Chaplains' Training

I was in Albuquerque, New Mexico last week for my annual training as a Police Chaplain. For the past eleven years, I have been a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains that offers training and certification for police chaplains in the United States as well as other countries around the world. Normally, there are anywhere from 500 to 2,500 chaplains attending the annual training seminar, however this year, only 275 chaplains were in attendance and of that number, only 7 of us were Roman Catholic.

Classes were of 90 minute duration and began each morning at 8:30 a.m., concluding for lunch, and then resuming each afternoon at 1:15 p.m. and concluding for dinner at 5:30 p.m. There were also evening sessions that began at either 7 or 7:30 p.m. and concluding by 9:00 p.m. The courses

which I took last week included the following:

Law Enforcement Funerals
The Human Side of Chaplaincy
Post Care for Officers After Using Deadly Force
Beyond the Callout: The Chaplain's Response to Grieving Families
The Coroner/Medical Examiner and the Chaplain
Introduction to Chaplain Crisis Intervention
Crossing The Blue Line
Chaplains and the News Media
Summoned To Court: What Every Chaplain Needs to Know
Suicide by Cop – Two Session Course
Human Trafficking
Target Hardening Houses of Worship
Domestic Violence

At the Plenary Session on Wednesday afternoon, we had the privilege to hear the story of **Joseph Dittmer, Sr.**, who was on the 105th Floor of the World Trade Center, Tower #2 when the WTC was attacked on September 11, 2001. He, along with 25,000 other people who were in Tower #2 made their way down 105 flights of stairs to the second sub-basement in order to catch a train and escape harm. Eight minutes after reaching the sub-basement, the tower came down. He witnessed incredible actions of bravery that day from both fire fighters and police officers, many of whom did not survive the collapse of the tower. I can tell you that there wasn't a dry eye in the room as he took us through the events that changed the course of our history that day. That same evening, the Annual Memorial Service for Officers killed in the Line of Duty was held. This year, 144 Police Officers/Sheriff's Deputies were memorialized who paid the ultimate

sacrifice. The service consisted of the singing of the Police Officer's Hymn, prayers, scripture passages, several special musical tributes, and a video memorial tribute to each of the fallen officers. As each state's officers names and photographs were shown, along with the name of their agency and the date of their End of Watch, chaplains from that particular state stood in solidarity, holding aloft LED Blue Lights to honor their memory and sacrifice. We also honored K-9's who died in the Line of Duty as well as the Chaplains who died within the last year. We were also privileged to have family members of several of the officers in attendance. Again, a very powerful and emotional experience.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the week is always the reunion of fellow chaplains, Catholic priests, who serve various agencies across the country. It's what we call "networking," and gives us an opportunity to share experiences and talk over what it is that each of us in our respective departments actually does. The forging of relationships and support is an important part of our membership in the ICPC.

I am grateful to you for your prayers and support for me personally as well as all Police Chaplains and especially allowing me the opportunity to attend these training seminars each year. Last weekend, one of our parishioners asked me how it was financially possible for me to attend. No parish funds or any financial support comes from Antioch Police Department – I pay for everything from my own resources for airfare, hotel, registration fees, and meals.

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the next Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup, sponsored by our Volunteers in Police Service and our Antioch Police Department, on Saturday, August 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I hope to know the site for the cleanup by next week's bulletin. This is a wonderful way to meet neighbors, make new friends, and do something positive to make a difference in our city. I hope you will join me.

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 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.

More From The Installation Reception

One of the more moving and tender moments at the Installation reception was when **Marla Plurkowski** came to the platform and read her translation of Doctor Seuss's "*Do You Know How Lucky You Are?*" There were so many requests for that to be shared in my insert that I am happy to print it for you today:

"DO YOU KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?"

By Dr. Seuss

Adapted for Father Robert Rien on his installation ceremony and celebration of becoming Pastor of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish on July 3, 2016.

"DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?"

Many moons ago and this is a fact,
In case, you were wondering
It was TWELVE years to be exact.

From the bishop himself, an order was made.

"Go to this parish and don't be afraid."
It's a town called Antioch, out in Egypt
...East County.

Where the heat is much hotter and the traffic is bounty.

This church needs a shepherd; I think you're the man.
Go be the administrator. That is the plan.

You'll stay maybe a year, only a little while.
You'll win them over with your wit and smile!

So off you go and introduce you to them.

You might be surprised, could be a hidden gem.

"DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?"

You saw the church, St. Ignatius of Antioch, standing quite proud and tall.
Surrounded by a field of weeds and what... NO PARISH HALL??

There's only one building and a small parking lot.

Hmm, MAYBE everything's paid for and no mortgage they've got?

There's a rectory over yonder past the field, I am told.

It has four bedrooms and baths but is getting quite old.

There is work to be done, some easy some hard,

OH, and one more thing...there is no back yard!

"DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?"

What? No grand organ, no artist in residency...how can this be?

Do they even sing at their Sunday liturgies?

There are weddings and funerals and baptisms too

Guess what, there's only ONE priest and that would be... YOU!

"DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?"

The collection plate here goes up and down

And crime is increasing in this small town.

A hidden gem, I think NOT!
But wait, you are meeting the people and
you like them a lot!!

We will have to add and make changes
galore
How about a new parking lot and a tent
with a floor?!

Maybe new icons, mosaics and stained
glass?
Another idea, how about a longer
Mass?!!

Get a Rogers 958 Trillium Masterpiece
pipe organ to add some flair,
Then add your singing to fill the air.

“DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW
LUCKY YOU ARE?”

New landscaping and a community
garden too.
With the outreach programs, you will
HELP quite a few!

Be a chaplain for the hospitals, police
and fire too
This parish will support you in all that
you do!

Join CCISCO and VIPS to make
Antioch a better place.
Do it with your style, sense of humor
and grace!

This community is not wealthy by any
monetary test
But the love that is here is far richer than
all the rest.

These people will not be strangers to you
for very long.
They will be your family and their love
will keep you strong.

So now be their PASTOR and continue
the job I so admire.
Stay at St. Ignatius of Antioch, long after
you RETIRE!

“DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW
LUCKY... WE ARE?”

From Father Tom Bonacci, C.P.
Vive la liberté!



July 15, 2016

Dear Friends,

The illogic and violence that
characterizes the terrorist mindset can
cause otherwise fair minded people to
think and act in kind. Remember
terrorist ideology operates on the
assumption that outrageous violence will
break the will and heart of the societies
and peoples it seeks to destroy. They
believe the frustration caused by their
terrorist mayhem will finally cause a
given society to accept the terrorist rule.

Oddly enough, political and
governmental leaders who cave in to the
"us" verses "them" rhetoric
psychologically achieve for the terrorists
what they seek to accomplish. One
political leader in the United States
suggested that we are at war with those
who seek to destroy Western
civilization. The issue is not quite so
simple. ISIL, in particular, would
destroy Islam and all civilization as we
know it. To identify Islam with ISIL

fosters the terrorist agenda to reduce the World to the "good" verses "bad" mentality claiming divine sanction for violent behavior. Nothing would please ISIL more than for "Western" people to see Muslims and Islam as public enemy number one. In fact, Muslims and the authentic practice of Islam are the World's allies in combatting the scourge of ISIL and terrorism.

What has now emerged on the World stage is what many have long feared - individually motivated acts of violence and terror. As ISIL continues to experience setbacks on the battlefields and curtailment of its sources of revenue, individuals infected with its ideology will continue to spring up in ways that defy our imagination or control. The antidote may seem too weak for those driven by the need to retaliate for the outrageous violence inflicted on so many.

First, populations of people based on religion, race, culture and heritage should never be isolated from the "mainline" population. Human rights belong to all peoples and not simply those who enjoy majority status.

Two, religion must not be reduced to the private sphere. For many people, the practice of religion is the source and motive for socialization and care of neighbor. We must not isolate that which is the source of our ability to understand and empathize.

Third, military response to acts of terrorism must be based on justice not retaliation. We must respond by coming to the defense of all those victimized by ISIL, the overwhelming number of which are Muslims.

Fourth, the peoples of the World must stand in solidarity with those victimized by the madness of terrorism. We must exemplify to those who would be inspired by ISIL and the like what it means to be authentically religious and socially responsible.

Finally, as has been said frequently in these pages, we must not allow the inhumanity of the few to destroy the quest for the human and the humane on the part of the many. We must not destroy ourselves by surrendering to a short-sighted revenge by which we reject or compromise our values and our better nature.

Once again, with great sadness and broken hearts, we stand in solidarity with the people of Nice and France, as we grieve the senseless violence that injured and murdered so many. We now honor those lost and injured lives by standing up for what is right and just. Indeed, long live liberty!

Peacefully,
Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.
Executive Director
The Interfaith Peace Project

Fr. Tom Bonacci's 50th Anniversary of Religious Profession in the Passionist Order

I thought you would like to know that Fr. Tom's 50th Anniversary of Religious Vows is August 6, 2016.

I invite you to congratulate him when you see him, leave him a message, or send him an email or a card.

If you want to send a card, his address is:
640 Bailey Road #301

Pittsburg, CA 94565

From Our Knights of Columbus

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers that showed up to help with the tri tip sandwiches on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday:

Pat McConnell, Bob Carvalho, Tony Burgarino, Tim Cox, Jose Palomino, Bob Plurkowski, Steve Rojek, Steven Rojek, Olivia Rojek, Clem Bushman, Bill Barbanica, Don Benson, Rick Howell, and Dave Simpson

Sunday:

Steve Rojek, Steven Rojek, Bill Barbanica, Clem Bushman, Bobby Zabroski, Peter Lozano, Bob Plurkowski, Rick Howell, Bob Carvalho, Philip Rios, Edgardo Aparicio, Kelly Ouimet, and Dave Simpson.

A fun time and a job well done! Thank you all for your support. **Grand Knight Dave Simpson**

Thank You

Each week, volunteer parishioners contribute hundreds of hours in support of the parish and its mission. This Stewardship of Time and Talent saves us thousands of dollars. Our gratitude to the following:

Church Cleaners: **Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Steve Rojek, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Emilia Freking, Carole Miller, and Cathy Romeo.**

Bathroom Cleaners: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

Sacred Linens: **Dilcia Aparacio**

Sacristans: **Rich and Pam Confetti, Dave and Sharon Simpson, Peter Degl'Innocenti, Vincent Rodrigues, and Harlan Young.**

Bulletin Assembly Team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho and Dilcia Aparicio.**

Volunteer Desk Team: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Mel Costanza, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Lorraine Lohmeier.**



Some of our neighbors are still waiting for health care

In Contra Costa, we estimate that **28,000 adults remain ineligible** for public access programs due to their immigration status. Last year, YOU, took an important step and stood beside us as we urged our Board of Supervisors

to close the gap for our fellow community members by providing funding to pilot the Contra Costa CARES Program. And they HEARD US! The program is now at full capacity, having touched over 3,000 lives with limited access to primary care services.

Click here for stories about the program

<https://insight.livestories.com/s/one-contra-costa/5751b2733720bd0014010088/>

The Multi-faith ACTION Coalition is part of the One Contra Costa Coalition, a group of community advocates interested ensuring all community residents, regardless of immigration status, gain access to quality healthcare. As you know, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded health coverage to millions of Californians, but we know many remain uninsured due to being explicitly excluded from ACA health coverage options. California has taken significant steps over the last several years to minimize the number of uninsured people statewide through various efforts, including providing access to full scope Medi-Cal for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals and now undocumented children under

the age of 19.

In the absence of federal and state solutions, the Coalition has developed a web platform, which highlights the importance of us continuing this conversation. Take a look at how you can continue to advocate for Health for All in Contra Costa.

1. **Learn about Health for All in**

Contra Costa: We've created a unique story that highlights the successes of our journey and opportunities in closing the gap to providing access to care for all remaining uninsured individuals in our county. Check out the platform here.

2. Partner with the Coalition: In the months to come we plan to continue advocacy efforts through various activities and we would like to keep you in the loop. Please join our Coalition Partners email distribution list by clicking here.

3. Share: Please share this email with colleagues and other partners. Encourage them to join our coalition as a partner and stay in the loop as well as check our story platform to learn more about the issue. Let's continue to lead the way in Contra Costa County.