

For The Bulletin Of
August 7, 2016

THE 19TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

Being busy is a good thing. It gets things done. It endears us to our employers. It fills time. Nonetheless, being busy can also have a negative side. We can keep ourselves so busy that we make ourselves sick, become depressed from lack of rest, don't take time to look at a broader vision of life. We can get so wrapped up in what we are doing that who we are, our being, gets lost. Values, virtues, and vision are all associated with *being*.

In today's gospel, Jesus tells parables about what servants *do* while the master is absent. Beneath the obvious application of the parables, Jesus is teaching us a lesson about how we are to *be*. He is teaching us about *who* we are to *be*.

In the parables about a master's return, the critical issue is what the servants do while the master is away. They must be vigilant for the "master's return" and faithful in doing "the master's will." But this faithful doing does not necessarily make the servants good servants. They might be vigilant and faithful in doing the master's will out of fear of punishment. What the servants do must flow from who they are, their very being. They must be connected with their master in such a way that their doing is indicative of more than duty. Their doing is indicative of their desire for a wholesome, healthy relationship that is beneficial to both master and servant. When this relationship is in place, then even when the master is absent, servants who have appropriated His way of life will act as if the master were present. To belong to Jesus' household – God's

kingdom – we must appropriate Jesus' way of life. We are to be His living, saving Presence. In us, He is never absent.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The final line of today's gospel is most demanding and directly applicable to our daily paschal mystery living: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much/and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." We've been entrusted with much: furthering Jesus' mission of bringing the Good News of salvation to all as His disciples. We have been entrusted with *even more*: we are not simply servants, but because of our baptism and being plunged into the paschal mystery we become members of the Body of Christ. We followers of Jesus are most vigilant for the *master*, that is, Jesus Himself, when we are *being* Who the Master is because His Life has been given to us. We are to be the presence of the Master Himself, continuing His gracious ministry on behalf of others. Our faithfulness is measured by even more than doing God's will; it is measured by our *being* the presence of the risen Christ for all those we meet. Any doing must flow from our being. Only then do we truly continue Jesus' ministry.

The real surprise of the gospel is that we ourselves, in our daily paschal mystery living of dying to ourselves for the sake of others, become more perfectly that presence of the very Master for Whom we are vigilant. In a sense, our vigilance is less about looking for Someone and more about being Someone. Our vigilance is for our own faithfulness. If we are preoccupied by possessions, schedules, work, sports, entertainment, etc. our hearts are already filled with exhaustible, insecure, and corruptible matters. The challenge of this gospel is to redirect our hearts to what is our true treasure, Jesus,

and then be faithful disciples. The gift is great. Our Treasure is Jesus.

- Those who have taught me Jesus' way of life are... Those whom I teach Jesus' way of life are...
- In the Master's absence, I continue His saving mission by...
- What encourages me to remain faithful in the Master's absence is... What impedes my faithfulness is...

About Liturgy: Stewardship, Faithfulness, and Liturgy

Every year in the month of October, we have our annual Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure renewal. At the conclusion of the month, after presentations on each of the aspects of Stewardship, a Commitment Form is filled out by each registered family and then brought to the Altar on the last Sunday of October indicating how that family will contribute their fair share of Time, Talent, and Treasure to the parish. Our reflections on the gospel today raise some issues about stewardship. Our hearts can be distracted in many ways, and if our hearts are distracted then we may lose sight of our true Treasure: Jesus.

For the good management of a parish, of course, there must be monetary as well as donations of Time and Talent. This is part of the "faithfulness" of good disciples. At the same time we must always caution ourselves that we don't become so involved in *doing* that we neglect the way we encounter our Treasure in good celebration of liturgy. Our hearts must always be tuned into the praise and thanksgiving that is liturgy.

It is easy to be distracted during liturgy by the demands of *doing* ministry. Vigilance for our truest Treasure means that we always must bring ourselves back to full,

conscious, and active participation in the liturgy that makes present the greatest gift God has given us – Jesus. Celebration of good liturgy makes demands on our energy (it takes more energy to make sure that our minds remain focused on the celebration) and calls us to vigilance (how God is transforming each of us into being richer members of the Body of Christ). Ultimately the most important stewardship is not the money or time we donate, but surrendering ourselves to being transformed. Our ultimate stewardship is how faithful we are to *being* Jesus' disciples.

The Floral Arrangements today are placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the 51st Anniversary of Marriage of Pablo and Norma Villegas and in loving memory of Bill Godfrey by his wife, Carolyn, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

Tour Group Leaves For Alaska

Our Parish Tour Group leaves for Alaska this coming Tuesday, August 9th, sailing for Alaska and returning on Friday, August 19th. In my absence, we will once again be privileged to have **Fr. Ricardo Chavez** present to preside and preach for both our weekday and weekend liturgies.

Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place this coming Friday, August 12th, at Sycamore and L Streets. Please meet in the parking lot of the small shopping center at 6:15 p.m. The witness begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be the usual time for orientation and Opening Prayer and then following the witness, an evaluation and Concluding Prayer.

The Deanery Pilgrimage

The day of our Deanery Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is only three weeks away. We have already filled one bus and are in the process of

filling the second bus. The cost of a round trip seat is \$20. Please call the parish office to reserve your seat. We will leave the parish at 8:15 a.m. to arrive at the Cathedral by 9:15 a.m. The procession up the Pilgrim's Path begins at 9:30 a.m., entering through the Jubilee Year Holy Doors, and into the Cathedral for the Multi-cultural/multi-lingual celebration of the Eucharist. A choir of singers from the eight parishes of the Deanery will support our sung prayer, under the direction of **Don Pearson**. Our Presider and Homilist is **Fr. Mark Wiesner**, one of the Missionaries of Mercy commissioned by Francis, Bishop of Rome. Each parish will have created a special banner for the liturgy and the various ministries will be fulfilled by individuals from each faith community. I hope you will join us for this historic occasion when for the first time the parishes of our Deanery will be together for worship in the Cathedral.

The Second Quarter Financial Report

At each liturgy on the weekend of August 20th and 21st, the Second Quarter Financial Report will be given. This is a part of the accountability of the Finance Council to you for your stewardship of Treasure to the parish.

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to all our volunteer parishioners who give of their Time and Talent to keep our parish running so smoothly. Those volunteers include the following:

...those who clean and maintain the sanctuary and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Jack Goncalves, Angela Bueno, Emilia Freking, Rose Salamanca, Nancy Santos and Carole Miller.**

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

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who washes and irons all 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, Bev Iacona and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...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, Judy Quicho and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful volunteers who helped assemble the mailing of the Grand Raffle Tickets: **Bernice Campbell, Melodye Costanza, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield, Judy Quicho Mena Macedo, Rowena Cayaban, Claudette Gumina, Anthony Gumina, Bobbie Ocang, Vangie Parrilla, Geri Chiechi, Anne Peck, Jane Enos, Sofie Zimmerman and Carole Miller.**