

**For The Bulletin Of  
August 14, 2016**

**THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN  
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

For whatever reason, we human beings seem to enjoy whatever has shock value. The greater the shock, the more attractive the incident. Media keep a story running so long as its shock value attracts viewers or readers. So much of television fare has high ratings because it has high shock value. Crime dramas are more and more grisly. Sci-fi is more and more strangely bizarre. Comedies are more and more gross. Reality shows are more and more flagrant. Newscasts are more and more sensationalistic. Each season a show must top the previous season in its shock value.

Today's gospel has a definite shock value about it. It speaks of things we tend to avoid in our lives: fire, anguish, division. What Jesus is teaching, however, is that to be faithful disciples we must face some consequences of witnessing to the Good News we would naturally avoid. What we must learn in our faithful discipleship is that the Good News is as much in the fire, anguish, division as it is in the peace we ardently desire.

This is surely a bad news, good news gospel. The bad news is that Jesus' coming throws the world headlong into fire, anguish, division. The good news is that, in spite of Jesus speaking to the contrary, He does grant peace – to His disciples after His resurrection. His appearance after His resurrection to the fearful disciples includes the comforting

gift, "Peace be with you." Faithful discipleship, faithful suffering, misunderstanding, and anger that sometimes come from radically living the call to be faithful to God's will, to be single-minded about continuing Jesus' saving ministry, to live counter to what our world is trying to shock us into accepting.

No, Jesus' gift of peace does not eliminate the fire, anguish, and division that come from faithful discipleship. Their absence from our daily living might be something of a judgment that we are not living up to Gospel demands. But good comes out of the negative aftermath of our saying "yes" to God. These painful consequences of faithful living sharpen the choice each of us must make: to be "baptized" with Jesus into His suffering and death. And this choice is not made once and for all. It is a choice we make every day. It is a choice about how we wish to live. Bad news. Good news. We live with both. We make our life choice in face of both. We do not make our life choice for shock value. We make it for Gospel value.

*Living The Paschal Mystery*

None of us chooses to live our discipleship for its shock value. We are, however, always faced with such consequential choices. We are hardly called like Jeremiah to announce to the Israelites that their beloved Jerusalem will fall into the hands of the Babylonians – nor are we thrown into a cistern to die. Nor like Jesus will we be nailed to a cross because of our preaching. Nevertheless, we are called to be faithful to God's word in the small, everyday things as well as at times when the more serious challenges come along.

We do not seek division, but we do seek consistency in living Gospel values. We do not seek anguish, but we do suffer with Christ when it comes. The closer we come to Christ, the hotter the fire becomes. The very way we live our lives is Gospel fire. Sometimes strife and division are a sign of our faithful commitment. Gospel living is not always easy. The real shock is that we choose it and are faithful.

Does it seem like the demands of discipleship are getting more difficult?

- I have experienced fire, anguish, division because of my faithful discipleship when...
- I have experienced Jesus' gift of peace because of my faithful discipleship when...
- The choice to be a faithful follower of Jesus is easiest when...most difficult when...

***About Liturgical Music: The Musical Setting of the Responsorial Psalm***

The responsorial psalm plays an important role in the Liturgy of the Word, but nonetheless a secondary one. Practically speaking, this means that the musical setting of the psalm ought not to overshadow the rest of the Liturgy of the Word. If we find ourselves mentally humming the psalm refrain during the proclamation of the Second Reading and the gospel, then the musical setting (or how it was rendered) has overshot its mark. We must keep in mind that the psalm is meant to lead to the readings, not to itself. (Often the problem, however, is not that the setting of the psalm is too elaborate, but that the proclamation of the readings is too weak. The need here, then, is to improve the proclamation.)

This is not to say that we never use an elaborate musical setting of a responsorial psalm. This is more than appropriate, for example, on solemnities such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. For these celebrations a highly embellished musical setting, with perhaps more than one cantor or the entire choir as a whole singing the verses in harmony, and with solo instruments added, communicates the high festivity of the day in contrast with the less festive days of the year. Such solemnities call for more elaborate music. But using highly ornamented psalm settings on a regular basis, Sunday after Sunday, ignores the progressive solemnity built into the flow of the liturgical year.

***August 15<sup>th</sup> – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Because this solemnity falls on a Monday this year (tomorrow), it is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. However, because of its significance, it is celebrated with more festivity than a normal weekday liturgy. The Gloria is sung or recited and the Creed is recited as well. There is also a Solemn Blessing given at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

What a greeting Mary gave Elizabeth that the infant in her womb “leaped for joy!” This could not have been any ordinary greeting. Perhaps Mary’s greeting flowed from Gabriel’s greeting to her at the annunciation: “Hail, full of grace!” Mary is the pure vessel carrying the One to be born Savior of the world. Mary was a willing vessel. Hers was a greeting begotten by belief, by yes, by encounter. This, over her whole lifetime. Hers was a greeting that proclaimed God’s mighty deeds then and now. Hers was a greeting that

announced the Presence of the dawning of salvation. Hers is a greeting still spoken and being fulfilled today. Hers is a greeting we must hear. Do we hear the greeting? Are we leaping for joy?

This solemnity celebrates the “great things” God has done for Mary. Mary is a type for all of Israel, for all peoples at all times. Mary’s assumption of body and soul into heaven celebrates the salvation of God and the promise to us of a share in the saving deeds of God. It is God who does great things because God has promised to be with us at all times. The great thing Mary does is say “yes” to being an instrument of God’s promise. Her continual “yes” greets us and challenges us to say “yes” as well. The joy that this gospel notes is a deep delight in knowing that God’s will is being done. This joy was known by Mary and Elizabeth, by Jesus and John, and by each of us. We only need to hear Mary’s greeting of “yes” and then make that our own greeting.

In her “Magnificat,” Mary already announces the new age to come which is established through faithful discipleship, grounded in faithful, daily “yes” responses to God. God’s kingdom of the new age is brought to completion when all are gathered into a share in eternal life. Mary’s assumption – this feast – is a sign of the completion coming about. This is why we might think of Mary’s assumption as a festival of joyful “yes-greeting.” The assumption is a sign of God’s salvation given and Mary’s faithful “yes.” It is also a sign that our true home is with God. It is a sign that our “yes-greeting” must be as faithful as was Mary’s.

### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

Mary remained with Elizabeth “about three months.” Mary remains with the church (with us) always, to be a sign of the “great things” God continues to do. Her discipleship continues in that she is a sign of hope flowing from her “yes.” So it is with us. One way our own discipleship is expressed is through our being a sign of hope through our “yes” to whatever God asks of us.

One important aspect of discipleship is to live in such a way as to witness to God’s promise of salvation offered through the ongoing “yes” of those who are faithful to the Son. Practically speaking, this means that we hear God’s word and respond with a resounding and joyful “yes.” In this we carry ourselves with dignity and bestow that same dignity on others. No one is beneath us or too “lowly” or insignificant to deserve our attention and respect. This is easier said than done!

Dying to self means treating others as those saved by God. First of all, this means that we don’t judge others. Our judgments of each other are usually much more unkind than God’s merciful judgment of us. This also means that we are careful never to speak negatively of others. Diminishing others surely doesn’t raise them up and ultimately diminishes ourselves. Finally, paschal mystery living means that we treat others as those blessed by God because of their own “yes.”

What will my response be to the proclamation of God’s Word today?

- Mary greets me by...when...Her greeting leads me to...

- The “great things” God did for Mary are...God does for me are...
- I proclaim God’s mighty deeds to...by...when...

***Hot August Nights***

Our Social Events Committee is sponsoring “Hot August Nights” this coming Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in the parish tent. Tickets are on sale following each liturgy this weekend and I hope you will join us for some old fashioned fun, food, and fellowship.

***The Deanery Pilgrimage***

Our pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is only two weeks away. It takes place on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, with buses leaving from the parish parking lot at 8:15 a.m. to arrive at the Cathedral for the procession up the Pilgrim’s Path at 9:30 a.m., processing through the Holy Doors, Multi-cultural/multi-lingual Celebration of Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. The Presider and Homilist is **Fr. Mark Wiesner**, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore, who is one of the Missionaries of Mercy, commissioned by Francis, Bishop of Rome on Ash Wednesday for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Our first bus is filled and we are rapidly filling up the second bus. Round trip tickets on the bus are \$20 per person and may be arranged by calling the parish office. A special Pilgrimage Packet is being prepared by the Cathedral for the occasion and they will be made available in both English and Spanish.

***Mary Project Thank You Letter***

Dear Father Robert and Parishioners of St. Ignatius of Antioch,

All of us at Birthright in Brentwood are so grateful for all your support! Project Mary continues to be our biggest donation of goods we have ever recorded! We were able to help numerous Moms and their little angles, with diapers, clothing and other needs.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for all your generosity and support.

The Birthright of Brentwood Volunteers

***Backpack Project***

Thank you to everyone who contributed backpacks and school supplies to our 8th Annual Backpack Drive in support of our adopted school, St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. Last Wednesday over 125 backpacks were transported to the school by David Costanza, Carole Miller and Bob Carvalho. Your generous support of Catholic education is greatly appreciated.

***Project Starfish Update***

The Aljanabi family has moved into permanent housing in the Martinez area, close to their son. The final transport of furniture and household goods from Antioch to Martinez took place last Thursday. This represents a major milestone in assisting this wonderful family on their journey into the United States.

Thank you for all your prayers.

### ***Faith Formation News***

**RCIA-** Life is a journey and every so often we encounter the big questions of life. “Who am I?” and “Where is God calling me to go?”

Are you, or someone you know considering becoming a Catholic? There is a process called *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* that provides opportunities for you to come to an informed discernment and decision about this life choice. It begins with a time called *inquiry*, getting answers, clearing up conceptions and beginning to explore the Catholic faith life. Inquiry will begin on Monday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the parish office.

**Faith Formation-** Preparations are in place for our children and youth to begin Faith Formation sessions again. If your child attended classes last year, you should have received the registration form for the 2016-17 school year. If you intend to enroll your child for the first time, you are required to register in the parish first. Just call the parish office at 778-0768 to inform the parish secretary. She will take your name and phone number so Fr. Robert can make an appointment with you and begin the registration process. Dates to remember:

Enrollment for classes:

- August 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm
- August 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm

Catechist Commissioning:

- September 18<sup>th</sup> all liturgies

Classes begin: September 20<sup>th</sup>

Would you like to become a catechist? A Catechist Workshop will be held on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to

8:00 pm. All experienced and new volunteers are welcome.

Call the Faith Formation Office at 778-1631. What a wonderful way of discipleship.

### ***Thank You***

...to all our wonderful parishioner volunteers who do so much to help in so many ways:

...to those who clean the church and parish hall each week: **Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Cathy Romeo, Rose Salamanca, Emilia Freking.**

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

...to **Joanna Burgarino and Susan Sermeno** who joined me for the monthly Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup last Saturday morning.

...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,  
Vangie Parrilla and Belen Farin.**

**Get your tickets today for  
*Hot August Night . . . 60's Style*  
taking place next Saturday after  
the 5 pm Liturgy.**

**MASQUERADE AROUND THE  
WORLD  
Grand Raffle is in full swing.  
Turn in your ticket proceeds  
now to take advantage of the  
Early Bird incentives**