

**For The Bulletin Of  
August 21, 2016**

**THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN  
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

***From Father Robert***

God has promised salvation from that first fateful fall of humanity. God has never forsaken us. While salvation is a gift freely given by God, we must choose it, work at it, desire it with all our hearts.

Today's gospel uses two images that indicate to us that we have work cut out for us: a "narrow gate" and a locked door. We must squeeze and push our way through life if we wish to be saved. We must squeeze out any weakness that leads us astray; we must push aside anything that gets between God and us. To squeeze and push our way to salvation, we must be strong.

What strength is needed to enter "through the narrow gate," the "locked" door? The strength that comes from living so that the "master of the house" knows us and opens to us. The strength that comes from faithfully living "in the kingdom of God." The strength of conviction in following Jesus and seeking His way over our own way. This strength only comes from God Who offers it to everyone, those "from the east and the west/and from the north and the south." Because of this strength we choose to journey "to Jerusalem," we choose to pass through death to Life, we choose salvation. Only this strength is truly "strong enough," for it is God's very Self, God's very Life. Yes, God desires that we be saved. The door of salvation is open to all those who have

chosen to pass through the "narrow gate" of self-surrender and the locked door of curbed passions and false desires. So, why would we choose this journey? Because the immediate destination (Jerusalem, with its promised death) is the way to a greater destination (new and eternal Life).

By "making His way to Jerusalem" Jesus is being faithful to His own mission; by going to Jerusalem He fulfills His Father's will even when that means He must suffer and die. Jesus walks the journey with us and shows us the way to what we desire most for our lives – salvation. Our salvation is a great gift from God, but it is not without cost. We must pass through the "narrow gate" of conforming ourselves to Jesus and participating in His dying and rising. Being disciples of Jesus, then, demands more than being in Jesus' company (for example: being faithful to personal prayer and celebrating Liturgy); it means we must take up the mission of Jesus to die and rise, that is, we must be on the way to Jerusalem.

What limits the scope of salvation is not God's reach (which is to the east, west, north, and south – that is, salvation is offered to all people) but *our response*. We gain eternal salvation by the difficult and demanding path of following Jesus on His way to Jerusalem; we do this by dying to self and being faithful disciples.

***Living The Paschal Mystery***

We all claim to know Jesus; after all, we are for the most part faithful church-goers who weekly eat and drink in His company. Today's gospel warns us that this isn't enough. There is an urgency about our paschal mystery living; we don't have forever to make up our minds

to respond to God's offer of salvation. Each day we must take up our own cross, die to self, and live for the sake of others. This is how we enter through the narrow gate and how we get to know Jesus intimately enough to receive salvation: we must *live and act like Jesus*. Becoming least is a metaphor for dying to self; this is what Jesus asks: that the first become the last. What limits the scope of salvation is not God's reach but our weak response. We must beg God for the strength to respond fully. Our strength comes from God.

- To be like Jesus and make my "way to Jerusalem" I must...
- The "narrow gate" and locked door I encounter on my daily journey are...
- The strength of God's very Self, God's very Life sustains me most clearly when...

#### ***About Liturgy: Prefaces***

During Ordinary Time there are eight prefaces given in The Roman Missal for Sundays. Because these prefaces are used with a wide variety of Sunday Lectionary Readings, they tend to be "generic," speaking more generally of the mystery of salvation. On festivals the prefaces always open up for us the mystery being celebrated.

The dialogue, before the preface proper begins, is one of the oldest of all liturgical texts. The dialogue invites the assembly to prayer, but much more elaborately than the usual "let us pray" that begins the collect and Prayer After Communion. First of all, the invitation to pray the Eucharistic Prayer is truly a dialogue between Presider and assembly. The dialogue unfolds in three parts: greeting ("the Lord be with you"),

command to a specific prayer sentiment or stance ("Life up your hearts"), and an invitation to pray in a particular way ("Let us give thanks to the Lord our God"). The Eucharistic Prayer is our Great Thanksgiving to God for the work of salvation.

The body of the preface then unfolds as an act of thanksgiving and praise and includes reasons why we have these sentiments toward God. Often the preface includes a reference to God as Creator, to Jesus as Redeemer, and to the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier.

Originally the Latin word which we translate as preface (*praefatio*) meant "proclamation" and was sometimes ascribed to the whole Eucharistic Prayer. Our English translation can get in the way here; rather than being merely "preliminary" (like the preface in a book) which can be skipped over or discarded, the preface to the Eucharistic prayer is the first invitation to give God praise and thanks. It sets the tone for the whole prayer.

#### ***About Liturgical Music: Changing Service Music***

At this point in Luke's gospel Jesus begins making His way intentionally toward Jerusalem, where He will face His death and resurrection. When asked who will be saved, He responds that the gate is narrow and great strength will be required to pass through it. It will not be enough merely to have eaten with Him and listened to Him speak. To enter into risen life we must journey with Him to Jerusalem; we must join Him in His self-emptying on the cross.

Jesus' turn toward Jerusalem in the gospel passage makes this Sunday the

ideal time to change the service music that has been sung (Gospel Acclamation, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and “Lamb of God.”) This shift in service music is not arbitrary, but liturgy-driven: the change of musical direction expresses our willingness to turn with Jesus and walk with Him toward Jerusalem.

**The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Marriage of Rick and Sue Howell. Congratulations! And may you be blessed with the best of health and much happiness for many years to come! They are receiving the Golden Wedding Anniversary Blessing during the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning.**

#### ***Second Quarter Financial Report***

In the bulletin today, you will find a hard copy of the Second Quarter Financial Report along with an accounting of the present amount in the Building Fund and the amount owed for the Parking Lot. I want to thank all those who have taken their Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure seriously, who participate in our programs, ministries, and outreaches and who support the parish financially. I also wish to thank the members of our Finance Council along with **Brian McCoy** and the Counters for their diligence, oversight, and accountability to us for our financial support. If you are not registered in the parish, I invite you to do so and to take responsibility for your membership, participate in the life of our parish, and contribute financially to help us in our efforts to build God’s kingdom within and beyond the geographical boundaries of St. Ignatius of Antioch. The parish is only as successful as you and I make it.

We are about MISSION and not just about MAINTENANCE. And MISSION doesn’t happen unless each one of us takes OWNERSHIP. Simply attending Liturgy on the weekend is never enough – every one of us must be engaged, involved, participating, and contributing financially. When that happens, we are acting as disciples and good stewards of all that God has given us.

#### ***Pastoral Staff Days***

This coming Wednesday and Thursday, the Pastoral Staff will be once again working together in anticipation of the beginning of the next/new Pastoral Year. We are privileged to have **Marge Perez** with us to facilitate our process over those two days during which we will pray, discern, discuss, and embrace the vision and direction for all that God will reveal to us for the Pastoral Year 2016-2017. Please pray for us that God’s Spirit will embrace us with gifts for listening, understanding, courage, patience, energy, enthusiasm, gentleness, and inspiration. I thank you for your love, support, and prayer for each one of us, for all of us. It is a blessing, privilege, and honor to be the members of your pastoral team.

#### ***The Deanery Pilgrimage***

This coming Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, is our Delta Deanery Pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will travel by bus round trip, leaving the parish at 8:15 a.m. and arriving at the Cathedral in time to process up the Pilgrim’s Path at 9:30 a.m., to enter through the Holy Doors, and then join our sisters and brothers from the eight parishes of the Delta Deanery for the celebration of Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. This liturgy has been over a year in the

planning: multi-cultural, multi-lingual, ministers from each community, our clergy con-celebrating with **Fr. Mark Wiesner, Presider and Homilist**, all celebrating and receiving God's precious Gift of Mercy. The music is under the direction of our very own **Don Pearson** along with singers and instrumentalists from throughout the Deanery. There may still be room on the second bus or you may drive your own vehicle. We will be arriving back at the parish around 1:00 p.m.

*Thank You*

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

...to those who clean the church and parish hall: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Jack Goncalves, Mency Osborne, Emilia Freking, Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Cathy Romeo.**

...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.**

...to **Jose Perez** and his grandchildren **John Thomas, Jackson and Jose III** for stepping forward and harvesting vegetables in the garden for St. Vincent de Paul.

**Y.L.I. #101**

Come join us for

**B I N G O!**

Family and friends are welcome to join us for:

**Salad Bar \* Door Prizes \*  
Raffles \* Bingo**

Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm

Fr. Vicente Dominican Hall  
Holy Rosary Church  
1313 A Street, Antioch

Reservation recommended.  
Tickets are \$20/person

For questions, contact Teri Anello  
or Estelle Christianson at  
925.757.2700 or 925.628.7475