

**For The Bulletin of
August 28, 2016**

**THE 22ND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

This Sunday's gospel includes two related parables, one directed to banquet guests and the other to banquet hosts. However, the banquets in the parables are more than fine meals. At stake in these banquets is relationships and inclusivity. All are invited. All share in the one place of honor. All receive of the generosity of the divine Host Who lavishes us with all good things.

The first parable about wedding guests invites us to reflect on knowing ourselves in relation to others. The "wedding banquet" imagery of the gospel is eschatological imagery, that is, we might think of God as the host and the wedding banquet as the Lord's heavenly banquet. We are all invited to the banquet (offered salvation); but we must remember that it is God Who invites. Our own relation to God is as those who are poor; we cannot "buy" our own place in heaven. God invites us to this exalted position. God raises us up! By God's choosing us we are raised up to share in divine riches and bestowed the great dignity of sharing in God's very life. If this is how God relates to us, then this is how the disciple relates to others. As God has bestowed dignity on us, so do we shower others with dignity? As God invites all of us, so do we invite all others into relationship with us that enlarges who we are and how we live?

The second parable about hosts invites us to reflect on how we wish God to

relate to us. We know we are poor (a metaphor for sinners). God doesn't extend an invitation to the banquet only to those who seem worthy, but extends the invitation to all who would respond. No one is excluded from the banquet. Neither should we exclude others from our own attention and ministrations. If we wish God to invite us who are poor to the divine banquet, then we also extend ourselves to all others regardless of social, economic, religious, sexual status or orientation.

At Jesus' "wedding banquet" *all* who hear and heed Jesus' admonition to humility, inclusivity, and generosity sit in the *one* "place of honor." There is *one* "place of honor" because we are all one Body in Christ. There needs to be only *one* place near our Host, symbolizing our unity and strength in His one Body. Further, we can never exhaust the gift of this "place of honor." It is a share in the very Life and ministry of our Host. This "place of honor," therefore, is not a limited space, a single seat, a physical arrangement of host and guests one to another. It is a spacious relationship of all of us to the risen Jesus that is a share in His divine Life. This "place of honor" is given to "the righteous," all of us who have been chosen to live and act as Jesus the Host. How blessed we are!

Living The Paschal Mystery

To be invited to the *one* "place of honor" means that we must let go of anything that limits our relationship to our Host and to each other. If we wish God to raise us up ("repaid at the resurrection of the righteous"), then we must live our lives raising others up. We must build strong relationships of unity. We must forget about seeking our own paltry

honor and instead give ourselves over to the “place of honor” to which our Host invites us.

Each Sunday we are invited to God’s banquet table. We ourselves are nourished at the same time that we are called to share the abundance of God’s Life by reaching out to others in need. We eat and drink in order to be gracious to others. This is the most profound blessedness!

Challenging! Powerful! Demanding! It is the way of discipleship:

- I would describe my relationship with Jesus as...
- I hear and heed Jesus’ admonition to humility, inclusivity, and generosity by...
- I find it easiest to choose to live and act as Jesus did when...I find it most difficult when...

About Liturgy: Eschatological Turning Point in Luke’s Gospel

Toward the end of the liturgical year – as our sequential reading of a Synoptic Gospel brings events closer to Jerusalem and Jesus’ passion and death – we begin to pick up Parousia (referring to Jesus Second Coming) and eschatological themes. Often this begins toward the end of October or early November and culminates in the great eschatological festival, the Solemnity of Christ the King. This year, however, themes that we would ordinarily be dealing with later in the liturgical year already show up now in late August. This is because of the structure of Luke’s gospel, about one-third of which focuses on Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. Luke’s gospel is structured as one long journey of preaching, teaching, healing, forgiving,

and relentlessly treading the way to Jerusalem. The prevailing journey theme in Luke’s gospel is a reminder that our whole Christian life is a journey to our final union with Jesus in eschatological glory. May we be sure-footed on our journey, resolute in following Jesus, and strong in our constant growth in our relationship to Jesus and each other.

About Liturgical Music: Singing The Acclamations, Part I

The acclamations we sing as part of the celebration of Eucharist (the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy, the Mystery of Faith, the Great Amen) are all acts of direct address to God. Despite their brevity, the acclamations have significant impact on our self-understanding and our manner of living out our baptismal identity. Singing the acclamations is a way we take ownership of ourselves and our relationship with God. The acclamations teach us that beneath all prayer, whether cries for help, or prayers for healing, or confessions of sin, or words of thanksgiving, stands the empowerment of our baptismal right to address God face-to-face. When we sing the acclamations, we dare the one gesture forbidden mere mortals – to look directly upon the face of God – and discover in that act not death but dignity.

Once we understand what we are doing ritually in the acclamations we can never again look upon self or others in a demeaning way, nor can we ever again approach life’s challenges with a sense of disempowerment. Instead we see in self and others the dignity bestowed by God, and act toward both with reverence and appreciation. And we interpret events, both personal and social, both

close at hand and worldwide, not as interventions, or judgments of a distant God, but as invitations to engage our power with God's in the mutual work of redemption. In short, we grow to full stature before God and take on our share of responsibility for the coming of the kingdom. To sing the acclamations, then, is to engage fully, consciously, and actively both in liturgical celebration and in all of Christian living.

The Floral Arrangement before the Altar today is place to the Glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Brian Armstrong and Siobhan Dillon. May God bless their union abundantly and may they experience many years of happiness and the deepening of their love. Congratulations!

Annual Retreat

Beginning tomorrow, August 29th, I will join my fellow priests of the Diocese for our annual retreat. This year, it is being held at the El Retiro Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos. I will return to the parish on Friday afternoon. I will preside for Holy Eucharist tomorrow morning as usual and then the remaining days of the week will have Liturgy of the Word and Communion Services led by Deacon Gary and Peter Degl'Innocenti on Tuesday and Thursday respectively with Fr. Ricardo Chavez presiding for Eucharist on Wednesday and Friday mornings. I would ask for the favor of your prayers for me, the priests of our Diocese, and the Retreat Master as we spend this intimate time with Jesus and one another.

Eucharistic Minister Enrichment

I would ask all of our Eucharistic Ministers to mark their calendars for Sunday, September 11th, from 1:00 p.m.

to 2:30 p.m. for on-going training and enrichment. I will be facilitating the session and look forward to this time together to deepen our understanding of our ministry and service to the worshiping community.

New Members Brunch

One of the very special events held in our parish is the New Members Brunch which is held twice a year for newly-registered members. The next brunch takes place on Sunday, September 18th, following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Newly-registered members will receive a Letter of Invitation from our Pastoral Council President, **Will Avitabile**, inviting them to the liturgy that Sunday followed by brunch in the parish hall. The members of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Financial Council also attend in order to introduce themselves and share with our new members about leadership in the parish as well as its vision and mission.

Catechetical Sunday

On Sunday, September 18th, our Catechists for our Faith Formation Program will be commissioned at each of the liturgies. I hope you will join us in honoring them and asking God's special blessing upon them as they teach, educate, and inspire our children, teenagers, and adults in their spiritual journey.

The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila

A very important celebration for our Filipino Community takes place during the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday, September 25th, when we honor the feast day of the first canonized Filipino Saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila. We are fortunate to have a beautiful Icon of San

Lorenzo in our church which is installed on the west sanctuary wall. Following the liturgy, a lite reception will take place in our parish hall.

Thank You

...to those who clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Jack Goncalves, Mency Osborne, Nancy Santos, Cathy Romeo, Emilia Freking, and Carole Miller.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, 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: **Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, Rowena Cayaban and Joe Fanfa.**

...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, Belen Farin and Maya Valdez.**

From St. Peter Martyr School

Dear Fr. Robert,
Thank you and the parishioners and staff of St. Ignatius of Antioch for your overwhelming response to the donation of backpacks and school supplies for the children of St. Peter Martyr School. A very special thanks to Brian McCoy, Dave Costanza, and Carole Miller, and all who helped in coordinating, delivering, and contributing to this wonderful project. We received 125 backpacks filled with school supplies for our students. We continue to be graced by the heartfelt generosity and love from your parish to our students in support of Catholic Education. What a blessing!

The backpacks and supplies bring joy and hope to all students and their families who receive them. This is a great "back to school" gift and an excellent example of stewardship for our students.

On behalf of the students, families, faculty and staff, I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your prayers and support. You and all the parishioners are remembered in our daily prayers of gratitude.

Respectfully yours in Christ,
Mr. Joe Siino, Principal

From Marla Plurkowski
Hot August Night...60's Style!

Last Saturday the Social Events Committee hosted their annual Hot August Night. This year the theme was 1960's. It was a lot of fun with fabulous food, great music and a sea of colorful tie-dyed shirts! Even the weather was perfect! **Thank you to our great Knights of Columbus who helped with set up, clean up and cooking. They**

**also were our busy bartenders!
Thank you to Rich Confetti, Chip
Sharpe, Don Benson, Jose Palomino,
Steve Rojek, Bob Plurkowski, Jose
Perez, Steven Rojek and Marc
Douville.**

Also a big thank you to our Social
Events Members who helped make this
event so special. **Thank you to Jane
Sharpe, Gail Bugarino, Brian and
Vicki McCoy, MaryJo Keister, Sharon
Bandy, Emily Douville, Reggia
Desmond, MaryAnne Douville,
Frances Rojek, Maryann Peddicord,
Pam Confetti, Mary Ewing, Lorraine
Lohmeier, Sue Batterton, Lesley
Eubanks, Anna Tellez, Rachelle
Martin, Marla Plurkowski, June
Stuhldreier and Judy Blakemore. This
event made over \$800.00 which will go
into the general church fund.**

**A special THANK YOU to Rachelle
Martin who donated two fantastic San
Francisco 49er tickets for our special
raffle. This raffle made \$590.00 for
the Building Fund. The winner of the
football tickets was Marla Plurkowski.**

THANK YOU to all the parishioners
who supported this fun evening and the
raffle! We hope to see everyone at our
Hot August Night next summer!!