

**For The Bulletin Of
September 11, 2016**

**THE 24TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME/THE 15TH
ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11**

From Father Robert

As we gather for the celebration of the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are also observing the 15th Anniversary of the attacks that killed more than 3,000 people in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. I am sure that many of you will have this anniversary on your minds as we come together to celebrate the Eucharist today.

As on the Sunday following these tragic events in 2001, the scripture readings on this 15th Anniversary are drawn from Year C of our Lectionary – they are the same readings that were heard 15 years ago. These scripture readings are juxtaposed with the memory of an event that has changed our national consciousness and significant elements of our daily lives.

Even after 15 years, we continue to grieve for lives that were lost, to recognize the sacrifices of many people, especially First Responders, in efforts to rescue, recover, and assist, and to feel anger toward those who made calculated decisions to destroy and kill. Such strong sentiments appropriately bring forth grief, sadness, and lament. Music, more than any other form of expression, helps to give expression to such a deep cry from the soul. All of the music selected for our liturgies this weekend reflects that cry: the prelude, the hymns, the service music, the psalm, the choir anthem, and the postlude. How blessed

we are to have in the person of our **Director of Music, Don Pearson**, a musician who has the ability to play compositions for this occasion that few musicians are able to do.

The readings of this day can easily be summed up in a single word: mercy. The Gospel reading is perhaps the strongest proclamation of God's mercy in Luke's entire narrative. Today's text includes three (or at least the first two) parables of mercy that Jesus addresses to those complaining about Him welcoming sinners and even eating with them. God's compassion for the lost, as portrayed in the stories of the sheep, the coin and the son, extends far beyond what we would consider reasonable or appropriate.

The other biblical texts proclaim a similar message of divine love. In the Old Testament reading, Moses successfully intercedes with God to spare people who have shown disdain for God's ways. Paul is portrayed in the second reading as marveling at God's mercy not only in overlooking his former ways, but also in allowing him to become a vessel for God's salvation. The psalm is drawn from the great biblical hymn of mercy, Psalm 51, and is paired with a refrain from Luke 15:18: "I will rise and go to my father."

The coincidence of this September 11th Anniversary with these powerful Lectionary texts provides us with an opportunity to come together for the celebration of Eucharist that includes both lament and mercy; remembrance and gentleness; anger and compassion.

Most importantly, it is the scriptural proclamation of God's generous mercy

and compassionate love that have the dominant and final word, even while acknowledging the strong feelings that are in our hearts as we gather for worship today.

The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Duarte, from his beloved wife, Betty, his son, Gary, and grandson, Andrew.

Living The Paschal Mystery

If God is so compassionate and loving with us, then as faithful followers of Jesus we must risk being so compassionate and loving with others. First of all, this means that we don't judge whether the other is worth our mercy and love. God shows us that all are – even outcasts and sinners. Second, we ourselves don't earn mercy and love. Since they are free gifts of God to us, they are gifts we freely give to others. We don't wait until someone wrongs us to show mercy and love – we offer these gifts simply because the other is a beloved of God.

It's much easier for us to be merciful and loving when the end situation is better for us. For example, we might forgive a family member some wrong-doing because we want peace in the family. It is far more risky to be merciful when there is no immediate gain for us in sight. As those who follow Jesus, we are called to be merciful simply because this is the way Jesus was. Living the paschal mystery means that we fast well and often because we realize that God unfailingly extends mercy and love without calculating whether we deserve it or not. All we need to do is repent. All we need to do is be willing to be found.

About Liturgy: God's Prodigality In Liturgy

There can be no more concrete expression of God's lavish mercy and love for us than in the celebration of liturgy's sacred mysteries, especially the Eucharist. God's prodigality takes many special symbolic forms during the celebration of the Eucharist. Here are some examples:

1. *Gifts For The Poor.* Each week at each liturgy a basket of food is the first gift that is brought to the Altar to be offered along with the bread and wine. These food staples (and money gifts) are concrete expressions of the solidarity we have in the Body of Christ with all others as well as a concrete way that we can share God's lavish gifts to us with others who are less fortunate.
2. *Intercessions.* In every celebration of the Eucharist there are a number of instances where we are invited to pray for others – after the “let us pray” invitations, during the universal prayer, at the prayers for the living and dead during the Eucharistic prayer, during the Lord's Prayer, in the quiet meditation time after receiving Holy Communion (just to name a few of the obvious and communal times for intercessory prayer). Our prayer for each other is an aspect of discipleship and one way we express the worth of all others.
3. *The Sign of Peace.* The Sign of Peace is an embrace given in compassion and love. The General Instruction to the Roman Missal specifies that the Sign of

Peace is offered to those nearby. It doesn't say to family members and friends, but "to those nearby." We don't judge whether the person is sinner or saint, wealthy or poor, lost or found – we simply offer this gift of peace because God has first given it to us. The dignity of the sign indicates the dignity of both the giver and the receiver.

4. *Communion.* God invites us to the messianic banquet where we rejoice and feast on the very Body and Blood of God's only-begotten Son. There is no discrimination in how the line is formed and who may come; indeed, ministers are not to judge who may receive Holy Communion but simply offer it to all those who come. Especially important is the sign of the one bread and the one cup, for in the Body of Christ we are all beloved in God's eyes.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Bianca Arechiga** who celebrated her Quincenera yesterday. Happy Birthday! And may God continue to bless you all the days of your life.

Catechetical Sunday

Next Sunday, September 18th is Catechetical Sunday. Our Catechists will be commissioned at each liturgy that weekend and you will have an opportunity to meet them personally. The assembly will have the opportunity to exercise their Baptismal Priesthood by extending their hands in blessing as those chosen for the Ministry of Catechist are prayed for and blessed.

New Member Brunch

Next Sunday, September 18th, the Pastoral Council will hold a New Members Brunch, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. In addition to a spectacular meal, new members will have the opportunity to meet the members of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council and learn a little more of our parish's history as well as of its ministries and mission.

The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila

Each September on the last Sunday of the month, this year being September 25th, our Filipino Community celebrates the memory of their first canonized saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila. The readings will be proclaimed in Tagalog; some of the music will be sung in Tagalog; and the ministers of the Liturgy will come from the Filipino Community. The Icon of San Lorenzo Ruiz is behind the Music Ministry area of the church and is a gift from our Filipino Community.

Following the liturgy, a lite reception sponsored by the Filipino Community will take place in the parish hall.

Members of our Filipino Community are invited to bring "finger food" to be served at the reception.

Thank You

What an incredible blessing are the many volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to further the care and mission of our parish. We thank: ...those who clean and maintain the church and parish hall: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Jack Goncalves, Mency Osborne, Cathy Romeo, Rose Salamanca, and Carole Miller.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall, cleaning them on Saturdays, after the liturgies on Sunday afternoon, and during the week: **Steve Rojek, Gino Ramos, 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, Mary Ng, Melodye Costanza, 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, Dilcia Aparicio and Belen Farin.**