

**For The Bulletin of
September 18, 2016**

**THE 25TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Today's gospel puts to us a familiar and basic question: Whom do we serve? We have heard all our lives that we "cannot serve both God and mammon." This is such a common gospel saying; we are very familiar with it. We interpret the "mammon" as money, wealth, and possessions. The basic question nudges us to think of serving "mammon" in another way, in terms of serving self. We are our own greatest wealth, our greatest possession. But even we ourselves can get in the way of Gospel living. The challenge is to pay attention to how we are living and sincerely ask the basic question, Whom do we serve? Our answer might surprise us at time.

The wily steward is clearly self-serving and decisive in doing what he thinks necessary for his own immediate well-being. But by acting in this way, he risks squandering his eternal well-being. To secure this, he needed to choose to serve God rather than self. Serving self keeps us mired in our immediate concerns, wants, and needs. Serving God frees us to be decisive in doing what is necessary to secure the best for both this life and the next. The irony is that had the wily steward chosen to serve God and God alone, he would have, in fact, chosen to serve himself in the best way possible! By serving God and God alone he would have secured the only future worth having – eternal Life. So, the question for us remains, Whom do

we serve? It is a critical and ongoing question for us.

Only by serving God alone can we ever secure for ourselves a sure future: being "welcomed into eternal dwellings." We must handle the things of this world and our daily actions in relation to what is eternal and with prudent decisiveness. Prudent decisiveness about our future means that we grow in our relationship to God, and that relationship is witnessed by the simple choices of our daily living. To put it simply, prudent decisiveness about our future means that God is truly at the center of our lives. Truly, we serve God and God alone.

Living The Paschal Mystery

When it comes to paschal mystery living, we often squander opportunities to gain "true wealth." The thrust of the gospel today is that we act prudently in this life in order to "be welcomed into eternal dwellings." Prudence demands that we not squander opportunities to be charitable and just toward others. Prudence demands that we not squander opportunities to die to self. Prudence demands that we not squander opportunities to be trustworthy with the ministry of discipleship which we take on each time we say "yes" to our baptismal commitment.

Most of us are serious about our paschal mystery living. We honestly try to live good lives. When opportunities present themselves to act in a Christian way, most of us respond appropriately most of the time. Today's gospel challenges us to take this one step further. Paschal Mystery living isn't simply a matter of surrendering to the self-sacrificing possibilities that come our way simply in the normal course of daily living. With

an eye to the future, we must also surrender ourselves to actually searching out opportunities to live the Paschal Mystery. There is such an urgency about discipleship and proclaiming the Good News of salvation that we cannot be passive in any way. Ultimately, any kind of passivity is self-serving. Today's gospel calls us to be God-serving. Only by serving God do we gain everything for this life, and assure our place in "eternal dwellings."

What will be our answer to the following questions:

- If Jesus were to say to me, "Prepare a full account of your stewardship," my response would be...
- I make shortsighted choices about my immediate well-being at the cost of my eternal well-being when...
- Who and what support me to serve God and God alone are...

About Liturgy: Praying Always

One way to thwart the temptation to be self-serving is to develop a habit of praying always. Even if our liturgical prayer is very rich and satisfying – and this is the goal of every parish – we also need our own personal, devotional prayer to complement liturgical prayer. If the only time of the week we think about God is during the Sunday Eucharist, it will be quite difficult, if not impossible, to grasp that our daily decision are really expressions of our commitment to be followers of Jesus who serve God alone.

Since Vatican II there has been something of a negative attitude about devotional prayer. Some of this derives

from the historical fact that in the past not all devotions were good ones. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy gives criteria for good devotional prayer: it should help to draw us into the various liturgical seasons, lead us to a better celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy, help us to live liturgy in our daily lives. One sure way to accomplish this is to prepare for liturgy ahead of Sunday, especially be reflecting on the scripture passages that will be proclaimed. Perhaps we might take the response to the psalm and make that a kind of mantra that is recited throughout the week, especially when difficult decisions come our way. If we are singers we might even sing it when we are driving somewhere or while we are doing work at home. It might begin and end our meals.

Meals – these could be another way of praying always. Families might have to make a concerted effort to eat at least one or two meals together during the week. Then during the meal there might be conscious sharing about each person's successes and failures, about how members of the family are trying to live the Gospel, about the good each one sees in the other. At first this might seem awkward and uncomfortable, especially if family members haven't shared in this way before. With time, each family will find what works best for them. Over time, members will see how more and more of their daily lives are lived with an eye to God.

The Floral Arrangement that graces the Altar this weekend is place to the Glory of God and in honor of the Birthday of Pat Prejza from her sister, Cathy, and in Loving Memory of "Bentley."

Catechetical Sunday

Today we are honored to be able to commission and bless all the catechists of our Faith Formation Program under the direction of **Frances Rojek**. Our program includes children in grades 1 – 8, middle school, and high school, sacramental preparation (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Baptism, and Confirmation), Adult Faith Formation, and the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults. I hope you will take the time to greet the catechists and thank them for their ministry.

New Members Brunch

Twice a year, our Pastoral Council hosts a New Members Brunch to welcome new families to our parish. Following our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning, the next New Members Brunch will take place in the parish hall. In addition, the members of our Leadership – Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council – will also be present to share with our new families their own journey of faith and how they are involved in the life of our parish.

Inquiry Begins

Tomorrow evening, Monday, September 19th, Inquiry, the first stage in the RCIA (The Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults) begins once again at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office. We meet until 8:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for adults with questions about the church, Catholicism and its teachings and beliefs, and how to become a member to bring their questions and perhaps concerns for discussion. No commitment is required or implied. Come and raise your questions and the RCIA Team will do their best to answer and hopefully resolve those questions.

For further information, please contact Frances Rojek in the parish office.

The Memorial Funeral Liturgy For Carlos Garcia

This coming Friday morning, September 23rd, at 10:30 a.m. we will celebrate a **Memorial Funeral Liturgy for Carlos Garcia, 41 year old son of Leo and Cecilia Garcia, and brother of 43 year old Caesar**. Leo and Cecilia are faithful members of our Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. congregation. Following the liturgy, there will be a luncheon reception in our parish hall. The Committal will take place at Holy Cross Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon. Please keep the Garcia Family in your prayers. The family has asked, that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to our Building Fund in Carlos's name.

The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila

Next Sunday, September 25th, we will celebrate the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, the first canonized saint from the Philippines, during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. The scripture passages will be proclaimed in Tagalog, the ministers of the liturgy will be from our Filipino Community, the Icon of San Lorenzo Ruiz will be lighted and adorned with flowers, and a lovely reception will be held in the parish hall following the liturgy. All are welcome! Members of the Filipino Community are invited to please bring finger foods to be shared.

New Eucharistic Ministers To Be Commissioned

Next Sunday during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, new Eucharistic Ministers will be installed and commissioned for this ministry. Please hold them in prayer

as they prepare for this important moment in their spiritual lives.

Welcome Back Fr. Griener!

Next weekend, we will once again welcome back **Fr. George Griener, SJ**, as our homilist. Fr. George has been away for study, teaching, ordinations, and other work for the Jesuit Order during the summer months. We will be privileged to have him with us one weekend a month over the course of the next pastoral year. I know you will warmly and lovingly welcome him back. What a blessing for our parish to be enriched by such an outstanding priest and homilist!

October: Commitment Month and the Feast of Our Patron, St. Ignatius of Antioch

Next month we begin once again our focus on Stewardship and Commitment as well as celebrating for the entire month the patron of our parish, St. Ignatius of Antioch. On the first weekend of the month, on Saturday, October 1st, we will begin with “Oktoberfest,” an evening of traditional German dining in the tent with raffles, prizes, great food, and lots of fun under the “big top.” The second weekend will feature a Ministry Faire that will include our own parish ministries as well as outreach organizations offering us opportunities to live out our discipleship of Jesus by caring for others. The third weekend of the month, October 15th and 16th is our Parish Feast Day, beginning with the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening and then the Feast Day of St. Ignatius of Antioch and our parish festival on Sunday, October 16th. The fourth weekend is Commitment Sunday when every member will come forward in a great procession to bring their Commitment Card to the Altar as an

indication of how each one of us will use our gifts, talents, abilities, and financial resources to support the building of God’s kingdom here in our parish. On the fifth Sunday of the month, the proceeds from our festival and gala will be formally presented to the congregation at each liturgy. It’s going to be a stellar month!

Our Concert Series

On Friday evening, October 21st, the first in the Series of Concerts for the Fall will take place in the church with the World Premiere of a new Children’s Opera composed by our very own **Nancy Bachmann**. The concert/opera begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in our parish hall. A free-will offering will be received to help cover the costs of the reception and provide a modest stipend to the performers. Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us for this historic event!

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

Our next Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup will take place on Saturday, October 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. On the first Saturday morning of each month, weather permitting, we gather in a specified neighborhood to do general cleanup, under the auspices of our Antioch Police Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). It is easy work and lots of fun and provides an opportunity to meet our neighbors who quickly become our friends. Please watch my Insert for the site to be cleaned up next month. I hope you will join me and fellow parishioners.

Parish Audit Has Been Scheduled

Every parish in the Diocese is required to have an audit every three years. Our next audit has been scheduled with the

firm of Armanino-McKenna from San Ramon beginning the week of October 10th. The results are shared with the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese and The Bishop. I will share their findings with the Leadership of the parish and with the parish-in-general once the report has been finalized.

Annual Liturgy of Remembrance

Each year, the parish sets aside a special Liturgy of Remembrance at which the families of those who have fallen asleep in Christ since last All Souls Day are remembered. This year, that liturgy will be celebrated as Sung Evening Prayer on Sunday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the parish hall. In addition, all parishioners who have experienced a death or who wish to remember deceased loved ones are also invited to attend, to bring photographs, holy cards, and other memorabilia to honor the memory of their beloved deceased. A special aspect of this liturgy is the lighting of Memorial Candles which are presented to each family at the conclusion of the liturgy. All those who had a funeral liturgy celebrated in our church within the last year will receive a special Letter of Invitation. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this beautiful and moving service.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Exhibit in the Diocese of Oakland

October 2 – 9, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland
Monica Salcedo
msalcedo@oakdiocese.org
Ctlicathedral.org

The Cathedral of Christ the Light is honored to host a special exhibit by the Missionaries of Charity on the life of Mother Teresa-Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

The exhibit will be on display in the Cathedral of Christ the Light Chapels & Hall of Honor. This exhibit will be on display from October 2 through October 9 and will conclude with Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, October 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Registration Deadline for Anniversary Mass & Reception at the Cathedral Approaching Sunday, October 2, 10:00 am
The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland

Mimi Streett 510-267-8392

mstreett@oakdiocese.org

Laura Windham 510-267-8395

lwindham@oakdiocese.org

Your 25+ years of marriage is an important and joyful reason to celebrate. Register online at:

oakdiocese.org/anniversary today or

call to RSVP for this year's

Anniversary Mass & Celebration for those married 25+ years or more this year. Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ and the Office of Marriage & Family Life will celebrate with you (and your registered family members) at the Bishop's regular 10:00 am Cathedral Mass on Sunday, October 2, followed by a reception in your honor. Registered anniversary couples will receive a commemorative certificate and a reception with the Bishop and your (registered) family members. There is a \$20 registration fee per couple and \$10 for registered adult family members (12+ years). Parking will be available in the Kaiser parking lot across the street. Details and online registration available at oakdiocese.org/anniversary.

Welcoming The New Rite of Matrimony

Starting September 8th, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the dioceses of the United States began using

a new ritual book for wedding liturgies, entitled *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. (It becomes mandatory on December 30, the Feast of the Holy Family.)

We are welcoming a text that is truly enriched and expanded, yet still very recognizable to those of us who are familiar with (or participated in) the outgoing *Rite of Marriage* book, which had been in use for over four decades.

The old *Rite of Marriage* was translated from the 1969 Latin edition – the first set of revised marriage rites published for the universal Church after the Second Vatican Council. A second Latin edition was then promulgated in 1990, featuring a number of changes. However, because the Church in the English-speaking world would spend most of the subsequent two decades employing a new method of liturgical translation and readying the *Roman Missal* for its 2011 implementation, updating the vernacular edition of the marriage rites got put on the backburner.

Now it's finally ready. We actually caught a glimpse of the updates with the *Roman Missal*, which already contains the beautiful new versions of the Nuptial Blessings and proper Mass prayers.

As a means of acquainting ourselves with the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, here's a quick look at five significant changes in the new ritual book.

1. Expanded Introduction

There is a great deal of new theological and pastoral commentary in the introduction, which clocks in at 44 paragraphs versus 18 in the old *Rite of Marriage*. These are lovely and important passages, which uphold preparation for the vocation of marriage as a critical opportunity to evangelize in the face of

“prevailing attitudes towards marriage and the family” (no. 20). And in an exhortation that is absolutely imperative for parishes today, we are urged to broadly catechize both children and adults on the meaning of Christian marriage and parenthood, while also providing concrete continued support to those who are already married, so that spouses will be able to preserve their marriage and “daily come to live a holier and fuller family life” (no. 14).

2. The Gloria Is Prescribed

The ritual book now prescribes that the Gloria be sung at wedding Masses, even on weekdays of Advent and Lent. This change (already included in the new *Roman Missal*) effectively elevates the nuptial Mass to the same level as a liturgical Feast. Although choosing a musical setting can be tricky when the assembly hails from different parishes, this nonetheless provides a tremendous opportunity to encourage singing as a means to foster a heightened sense of solemnity.

3. Instructions for the Choice of Readings

The new rite specifies at least one scripture reading that “explicitly speaks of marriage” must be chosen for use at weddings, whether inside or outside of Mass. These readings are now designated by an asterisk from among the usual full range of options for wedding readings (to which has also been added one Old Testament and four New Testament readings).

Moreover, throughout the Easter Season, the eschatological account of the wedding banquet of the Lamb from the Book of Revelation (Rev 19:1,5-9a) should now be used as the first reading instead of an Old Testament option – a fitting change that highlights the paschal context.

4. Congregational Additions within the Actual Marriage Rites

There are minor modifications in the wording of the questions and the consent. For instance, there's a new phrase inserted in the second form of the consent: "...in sickness and in health, **to love and to cherish** until death do us part" (this actually aligns the American vows with what's traditionally been used in England).

However, there are two substantial additions that involve the congregation. The first comes after the Reception of the Consent, when the following acclamation is prescribed:

Priest/Deacon: "Let us bless the Lord"

All: "Thanks be to God."

"Thanks be to God" is an expression of approval and joy that is also prescribed during the rites of ordination and religious profession, thereby establishing a liturgical connection between marriage and other vocations.

The second addition is the option for the assembly to sing "a hymn or canticle of praise" after the Blessing and Giving of Rings. Heartfelt singing here seems to be an acknowledgment that this moment – after the vows and rings have been exchanged – invites us to pause and celebrate what we have witnessed, rather than proceed unceremoniously to the rest of the liturgy.

5. Cultural Adaptations

Two new cultural adaptations have officially been incorporated as options within the English marriage rites. These customs, popular in Hispanic and Filipino communities, previously appeared in the United States' 2010 Spanish edition of the *Ritual del Matrimonio*.

The first is the Blessing and Giving of the *Arras* (coins), done after the exchange of rings. The priest or deacon blesses the *arras*, and then the spouses give them to each other "as a pledge of God's blessing and a sign of the good gifts we will share."

The second is the Blessing and Placing of the *Lazo* or the Veil, which can occur before the Nuptial Blessing. The *lazo* is a wedding garland or cord that is used to symbolically bind the couple together, while a veil may also be placed over the bride's head and the groom's shoulders.

Both convey the indissoluble union of the husband and wife.

Cultural authenticity would recommend that these options be exercised primarily by communities in which they are traditionally practiced. Their inclusion here is a recognition of the expanding role of the Spanish-speaking Catholic community in this country.

As we welcome the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, may we heed the words of Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* (no. 213), encouraging couples "to make the liturgical celebration a profound personal experience" and to appreciate the sacrament as a sign of "the covenantal love and union between the incarnate Son of God and his Church."



Brian W. MacMichael

Brian W. MacMichael is the director of the **Office of Worship in Fort Wayne-South Bend**. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame's M.T.S. in liturgical studies.

Thank You How blessed we are to have a significant number of parishioner volunteers who give so much of themselves each week to assist in our parish's mission and outreach. Our thanks to:

...those who clean and maintain the church each week: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Mency Os borne, Carole Miller, Kathy Romeo, and Emilia Freking.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in 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: **Melody Costanza, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...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.**

Office Staff Says Good-bye to Volunteer

The office staff said good-bye to one of our most valued and friendly volunteers, **Mary Ng**, who will be moving to Sacramento with her husband Richard by the end of September. She has been an asset to the office and will be missed by us all. We wish them much love and many blessings in their new home.

Antioch Shelter Update – September 2016

Rezoning efforts for the property where the proposed shelter is to be located have been ongoing for nearly two years. The agreement to transfer the property to the Antioch Shelter Project has also not taken place and there is currently no proposed date for the transfer to occur. Additional design work for the shelter cannot proceed without resolving the rezoning and property transfer agreement issues.

We also continue to work with the Antioch Unified School District regarding the children attending our schools who do not have a place to live. Volunteer Opportunities:

- Antioch Shelter Project is looking for office space for administrative purposes and to hold meetings. Contact us at www.antiochcasherter.org or by calling Tamika at 510-384-4292 or Gary at 206-962-1496. Our email address is antiochsp@gmail.com.
- Project Homeless Connect on October 13 at the Contra Costa Fairgrounds. See this week's bulletin for more details.

