

**For The Bulletin Of
September 25, 2016**

**THE 26TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Someone who is “in our face” is bold and aggressive toward us about something, won’t let go, keeps pushing. Sometimes our response is to shout at them to get out of our “personal space,” meaning the person is too close, invading us, pushing us too far. Sometimes it takes someone who is in our face to get us to see something important. Sometimes someone has to invade our personal space in order for us to see that person. And, sometimes, even someone being our face or invading our personal space doesn’t capture our attention enough to make us notice.

In today’s gospel, the poor man Lazarus is invading the rich man’s personal space - he is “lying at his door.” He is right there. He is in the rich man’s face. We can well imagine the rich man is so busy, so self-absorbed that Lazarus did not affect him. Until the rich man died and was tormented by his punishment for not responding to Lazarus. Only in torment does he notice Lazarus. He begs that the very man whom he ignored during his lifetime should come to alleviate his torment, should bring him some cool water to ease his pain. Yet, he offered nothing to Lazarus while he was living.

The rich man in torment also begs Abraham to send “someone from the dead” to warn his five brothers to repent and change their way of living. In fact, during his earthly life, the rich man had

“someone from the dead” warning him to repent and change – the sick, suffering, starving Lazarus “lying at his door” who was as good as “dead” to the rich man.”

The message of “Moses and the prophets” about how we are to live comes not only in the word of Scripture, but also through those lying at our door. And, unlike the rich man in the parable, we do have Someone among us Who has “risen from the dead.” We only need to listen. This is how we gain the insight to see those in need at our own door and choose how to respond.

There is a great “chasm” between selfishness and self-surrender, between evil and good, between the lost and the saved. This chasm is a metaphor for listening to God’s word and allowing ourselves to be guided by its demands. The time to respond decisively to God and others is now; after death it is too late. Indeed, “someone from the dead” has come to warn us. Who? Do we listen?

Living The Paschal Mystery

There is no need to be frightened about eternal Life if we allow God’s word to guide us in our responses to others in need. Thus do we prepare for eternal Life. This is what is amazing about choosing to help others, no matter how insignificant the help might seem: whatever we do for others is a preparation for eternal Life.

God’s word comes to us in more ways than the proclamations at Sunday Eucharist or taking time to read the Bible – as important as both of those are. God’s word also comes to us through others. It can be presented as someone

in need. God's word might come in some challenge to our self-centeredness or values. It might come through another's encouragement. It might come by someone being in our face about a behavior we need to change. In all these ways and countless others we are invited to listen. Listening is guidance for how to respond with compassion and care for those who are lying at our door.

Who would have thought that discipleship would be so demanding, so challenging?

- The Lazarus lying at my door is...I respond by...with...
- I need to listen to...What I hear is...
- Considering my eternal Life, I...

About Liturgy: Purple and Advent

Today's gospel description of the rich man has him "dressed in purple garments and fine linen." The mention of the color isn't simply a nice detail about a man whose favorite color was purple. Purple dye was very expensive at that time in history when there were no inexpensive substitutes for natural dyes and so only the wealthy could afford clothes dyed in purple. Purple clothing then, proclaimed a status in society. Because purple was also frequently associated with emperors and kings, it also became a color associated with Jesus. When we celebrate Jesus as King on the Solemnity of Christ the King in a just a few weeks, we will recall Jesus' victory and reign of glory. Purple, then, is a liturgical color that reminds us of eschatological glory and the end times when Jesus will come again to reign forever.

We make the distinction between royal purple (blue-purple) and violet purple (red-purple). We use the royal purple during Advent because it is a season that celebrates Jesus' victory and eternal reign. Already in late September the liturgy has begun to turn our attention towards the end times and Jesus' eschatological victory.

Welcome, Father George Griener, SJ!

This weekend, we 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 are 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! Thank you, Father George!

The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila

Today we 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!

New Eucharistic Ministers To Be Commissioned

Today during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, new Eucharistic Ministers are being installed and commissioned for this ministry. Please remember them in

prayer as they begin this ministry and service to our worshipping community.

Mayoral Candidates Forum

Our parish is partnering with the League of Women Voters in hosting a mayoral candidate's forum this Monday evening, September 26th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Parishioners have already submitted a number of questions that we will ask the candidates to respond to. Plan to attend this important community event in our parish. As Catholics and as American Citizens, it is important that we inform ourselves about the issues and participate in the up-coming election.

The Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

This coming Thursday, September 29th is the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, the Patron Saint of Police Officers. Our Knights of Columbus are once again continuing a tradition of honoring our local police department and fire fighters by providing lunch. The meal will be prepared in our kitchen and delivered by teams of Knights who will deliver the food to our Antioch Police Department, to the local fire houses, and ConFire ambulance drivers, and fire prevention officers. Please remember all police officers and firefighters in your prayers and thoughts in gratitude and thanksgiving for their service to our community, to protect, to defend, and to serve.

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 this coming 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. Please see the flyer attached to my Insert for details about the cleanup site.

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***](mailto:msalcedo@oakdiocese.org)

[***Ctlicathedral.org***](http://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.

Thank You

How blessed our parish community is to have so many volunteer parishioners involved in helping us to fulfill our mission, to maintain our building, and to support its administration! Our thanks to: **Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, and Angela Bueno** who came early last Saturday morning to clean the church. ...to **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young** who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms throughout the week.

...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, Melody Costanza, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, 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.**

From The Diocese

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Associate for Divine Worship and Operations— Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland

The Pastoral Associate for Divine Worship and Operations is responsible for the supervision of Divine Worship and Sacred Music at the Cathedral. In addition the incumbent is responsible for all program and administrative functions of the Cathedral including communications, event planning and development, local scheduling and real-time operations that facilitate the maximization of resources

(human and financial) to enhance parishioner engagement, staff productivity, schedule adherence and financial goals of the Cathedral. [View the full position description](#). Please send cover letter and resume to: gespinoza@oakdiocese.org.

Executive Assistant to CEO— CCEB, Oakland

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is seeking an Executive Assistant to the CEO. The executive assistant will assist the CEO with effective operations of the executive Office and manage or support special projects; act as liaison for the CEO responding to community, diocesan and parish inquiries; provide support for Board/Committees/CEO Events; work independently, manage multiple projects and maintain confidentiality; and upload the professional standing of the agency using both tact and judgement. [View the full position description here](#).

To apply, please include the title of the position in the subject line before submittal of cover letter, salary requirement and resume. The position will be open until filled. Please send your cover letter and resume to: HR@cceb.org.

Bookkeeper – Our Lady of Mercy, Point Richmond

Our Lady of Mercy in Point Richmond is looking for a part-time bookkeeper who will be responsible for maintaining the financial records of the parish by accurately recording the day to day financial transactions. The Bookkeeper provides timely and accurate financial information to the pastor and finance council, and ensures fiscal responsibility in parish operations under the supervision of pastor and finance committee. [View the full job description](#).

This is a part-time position (4 hrs/week). Please submit letter of intent and resume to: Rev. David O’Rourke
Our Lady of Mercy Parish
301 West Richmond Avenue
Point Richmond, Ca 94801

Business Manager—St. Joseph, Pinole

carollujan.sjcpinole@gmail.com

St. Joseph Parish in Pinole is searching for a full-time, Business Manager to oversee the general office and financial activities of the parish. [View the full job description](#). To apply please send letter of intent and application to:

Rev. Geoffrey Baraan
St. Joseph Parish
2100 Pear St.
Pinole, CA 94564

From Msgr. James Moroney, The Rector of St. John's Seminary, Boston, MA

A Homily Fifty Days Before the Election



Despite the fact that it was illegal for a Catholic to vote, hold office or practice his religion in public, the Catholic gentleman Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Thirteen years later, his cousin John was named the first Catholic Bishop in this land, a man who, by any historian's assessment, is to be counted among the founding fathers of these United States.

Yet, despite the advocacy for the new American nation which Bishop Carroll embraced (so passionately that it once got him excommunicated as a young priest), or perhaps because of it, he followed three cardinal rules which governed his actions at the intersection of priesthood and patriotism:

1. The government and her laws are to be obeyed, unless they would cause us to sin. Here he, like the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, might have cited a late second century Greek apologist: "Pay to all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due."¹

2. All American citizens have an obligation to participate in the civic life, in order to foster, as our first President put it, "a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field, and finally, that [God] would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."²

3. No priest should ever publicly endorse the candidacy of a single person or party. Though Bishop Carroll was a close personal friend of Benjamin Franklin, neither Adams nor Jefferson ever received his public endorsement.

That was Bishop Carroll's vision for America as patriot and priest: an America established by the will of God through the work of our founding fathers.³ And this was his vision of the Church in America: "to grow with the growth and bloom with the development of the country,"⁴ serving as a leaven in the dough of the great American experiment by promoting the Gospel virtues of true religion.

And we are the inheritors of this great vision, though at times in these difficult days, we seem a long way from making that vision come true.

A long way even from realizing our Bishops' common guidance in their latest letter to us, *Forming Consciences For Faithful Citizenship*, wherein they counsel Catholics approaching the voting booth to act on "moral convictions of a well-formed conscience"⁵ on such vital issues as human life, promoting peace, marriage and family life, religious freedom, preferential option for the poor and economic justice, health care, migration, Catholic education, promoting justice and countering violence, combatting unjust discrimination, care for our common home in the face of climate change, communications, media and culture, and global solidarity.⁶

All towards making a decision on which candidate to vote for. Now it is always possible that, in any given election, all the candidates will espouse Catholic values. In which case our decision is hard.

But then it is also possible, in any given election, that one or even all candidate might promote policies which contradict

the truth we proclaim as Catholics. And that decision is even harder.

Say, for example, that we are faced with a candidate who promotes intrinsically evil acts, like abortion or euthanasia. This alone, the Bishops tell us, "provides sufficient reason to vote for the other candidate."

But even more sadly, what if we are faced with an election in which "all candidates hold positions that promote intrinsically evil acts?" Then, the Bishops advise, the Catholic voter might choose to vote for no one, "or, after careful deliberation, may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position and more likely to pursue other authentic human goods."⁷

But even faced with such awful choices, as Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia reminded us last week, we cannot give in to the "luxury of cynicism."

"If Christians leave the public square," the Archbishop of Philadelphia said in a talk at Notre Dame, "other people with much worse intentions won't. The surest way to make the country suffer is not to contest them in public debate and in the voting booth."

And so, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, like the first Archbishop of Baltimore before him, refused to tell us how to vote. But he did tell us to honor our nation, and he did tell us how to participate in civic life.

Only one thing can show us how to vote, he suggested: Prayer. Prayer which, as he wrote elsewhere, "involves more than mumbling a Hail Mary before we pull the voting booth lever for someone we

see as the lesser of two evils,” Prayer which “is a conversation, an engagement of the soul with God... We need to be awake, we need to clear our heads of media noise, and we need to think quietly and carefully before we vote. None of us can afford to live the coming weeks on autopilot.”

So you have exactly fifty days to pray. Without cynicism, sarcasm or snide condescension. With humility, an open heart and a love for the truth. Pray for the country which Bishop John Carroll so loved, and that by rendering unto God what is truly God’s, we might render rightly unto Caesar as well.

