

**For The Bulletin Of
October 2, 2016**

**THE 27TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

We have great respect for people who are conscientious, fulfill their duties, do all that is expected of them. More than even respect, we have great awe for those who walk the extra mile, who reach out to others when this is not required, who go beyond normal expectations. Going beyond expectations is an enlargement of self that enables us to transcend boundaries and limits, and achieve the seemingly impossible. People who do this can move mountains, can shake foundations, can uproot a mulberry tree. These people inspire us, move us to greater heroics, challenge us to stretch ourselves so that we become even larger than life. These are people of great faith.

The apostles demand that Jesus increase their faith. Jesus responds that even faith “the size of a mustard seed” is enough to do great things. The “unprofitable servants” of Jesus’ gospel teaching simply do what they are commanded – they do not go beyond normal expectations; they cannot uproot a mulberry tree. To go beyond expectations, we must risk doing the impossible and thereby become profitable servants. In this we align ourselves with God, become able to do as God does. Being aligned with God: this is faith.

Faith-filled persons take what they have – whether little or great – and act. If we wait until we think we have enough

faith, we will never act. In the first example about the mulberry tree, Jesus is saying that even a little faith is enough to move this tree. The point about faith that Jesus makes is not that it be measured; active and fruitful faith is not a matter of “how much.” But we must use what we do have because even a little bit gives us great power to accomplish God’s work. We have this power not on our own, but because we give ourselves over to God’s will and God’s ways. Faith is aligning ourselves with God so that we can act with God’s power – then we can do the seemingly impossible.

Faith is more than faithfulness, is more than doing all we have been commanded. “Faith-filledness” is acting decisively as God would do. The faithful and faith-filled disciple is the one who doesn’t wait for enough faith, but continues to respond to the everyday and never-ending demands of discipleship. The Master demands our service. And then gives us the faith to perform it well.

Living The Paschal Mystery

When we think of people of great faith, we often mention people like Gandhi or Mother Teresa. These were great religious leaders who obviously had great faith and accomplished great things. We make a mistake, however, if we identify faith only with doing great things. Or if we identify faith only with beliefs. Or if we identify faith with a religious system. Jesus reminds us in this gospel that our everyday actions, performed in loving service, are expressions of our faith because they align us with God.

The faith-filled person puts in an honest day's work and more. That person is gracious to those whom he or she comes in contact. That person is ready to reach out and help another, even beyond one's own workload. The faith-filled person sees Jesus in the other and responds to the situation with Jesus' love and care. Faith is obedience to responsibility. It is obedience to discipleship. It is obedience to our Master who encourages us, helps us, never abandons us. It is obedience to the "more" that aligns us with God.

We are in the final weeks and Sundays of Ordinary Time and the scriptures we hear become even more intense, more demanding in terms of our personal discipleship. How are we responding?

- The "impossible" I have done because of my faith is...
- I have gone beyond what is expected or commanded of me when...What happened as a result is...
- I am most aligned with God when...I can tell I am not aligned with God when...

About Liturgy: Ministry As Service

We usually think of service in terms of doing for others. A very special kind of "doing for others" is the ministry each of us undertakes at any given liturgy. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states in No. 95: "In the celebration of the Eucharist the faithful form a holy people, a people of God's own possession and a royal Priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him so that they may learn to offer their very own

selves. They should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration." There is a direct link between our ministry at liturgy and our service of each other, between doing what is expected of us and doing the "more" that aligns us with God.

The most important ministry at Eucharist is that of the assembly. This means, first, that each member of the assembly has an active, decisive ministry. To be assembly means to surrender ourselves to God's Presence and in that surrender we become the church made visible. Our very act of surrender, then, is an expression of faith because it takes us beyond ourselves. This is made concrete in the common responses, gestures, postures, and singing we do at liturgy. Faith is also made concrete in the active listening to God's Word proclaimed, in heartfelt giving of praise and thanks during the Eucharistic prayer, in genuine gift of self to others in the Sign of Peace, and in walking together in procession to God's banquet table where we are nourished for the demands of discipleship.

Each of the specific, visible ministries at liturgy (Presider, deacon, hospitality ministers, altar servers, musicians, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers) is of course, also an opportunity to express faith through service. But we must never forget that the most important ministry is to surrender to being church made visible. This is the most demanding service because it requires us to lose ourselves in something bigger than ourselves. This is how faith the size of the mustard seed can move mulberry trees – we are not alone, but

our service is always with the other members of the Body of Christ.

The Floral Arrangements at the Altar, the Ambo, and the Icon of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila last Sunday were placed to the Glory of God by Virgil and Nancy Santos in honor of San Lorenzo's feast day.

The Floral Arrangement at the Foot of the Cross today is placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the 48th Anniversary of Marriage of David and Melodye Costanza.

The Funeral Services for Alberto R. Nevado

Our beloved parishioner, **Alberto Ramos Nevado**, husband of Eugenia, fell asleep in the Lord last Sunday. His Visitation will take place this afternoon, beginning at 1:00 p.m. with the Celebration of Sung Evening Prayer at 4:00 p.m. Visitation will resume tomorrow morning, Monday, October 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the Funeral Liturgy being celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers as together we commend Alberto to the loving embrace of God.

Thank You To Our Filipino Community

Last Sunday's celebration of the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz was truly beautiful, with the readings proclaimed in Tagalog, the hymn to San Lorenzo, the music that was sung, and the spectacular reception that followed in the parish hall. So many people participated, helped, decorated, set up, served, and cleaned up afterward. Our thanks to: **Virgil and Nancy Santos, Roberto and Vicky Ancheta, Frances Rojek, Sally Padua, Doris Radovan, Rudy and Vangie**

Fernandez, Amante and Gloria Asuncion, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Belen Farin, Reno and Thelma Benasfre, Josie Papanggo, Ramon and Mercy Espinosa, Villa Serrano, Linda Con-ui, Nick and Lilia Suarez, Antonio and Rowena Cayaban, Tony and Didi Cagulangan, Judy Quicho, Estrella Rusk, Zenaida Harrington, Hanny Reingold, Nieves Buclatin, Charlie and Cecille Mirano, Marilou Mendiola and Lina Badeo, Marco and Evelyn Ponce, Angela Bueno and Mercy Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Al and Rose Necor, Romy and Edith Quimbao, Cynthia Enrique, Cecil and Shirley Jemera, Bobbie Ocang, Vangie Parrilla, Arnold and Beng Lim, Mark and Angeline Santos, Rey and Carole Dollete, and Rey and Leny Khan.

Congratulations!

...to **Alicia Perez and Christoph Holl** who were commissioned as new Eucharistic Ministers during the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist last Sunday.

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

This 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. Last night, we celebrated "Oktoberfest," an evening of traditional German dining in the tent with raffles, prizes, great food, and lots of fun under the "big top."

Next 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!

Thank You

Our parish would not be able to accomplish all that we do were it not for the countless volunteers who offer themselves in service in so many ways. This week, we thank:

Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Cathy Romeo, Carole Miller, and Rose Salamanca who cleaned the church and the parish offices.

...to **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Frances Rojek** who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms and vacuumed the carpets in the narthex and in the portico.

...to those who came this past Tuesday and created the beautiful environment for Fall: **Carole Miller, Anne Peck, Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Nancy DiMaggio, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Gail Burgarino, Bob Carvalho, Erika Fernandes, Stevie and Tom Catchings, Denise Moss, Harlan Young, Maria Sparling, Oscar Tellez, Theresa Nelms, Patricia Britton, and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...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: **Melodye 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, and Belen Farin**

...to the volunteers who cleared the planting beds in the community garden: **Brian McCoy, Jose Perez and Bill Stuhlreyer**