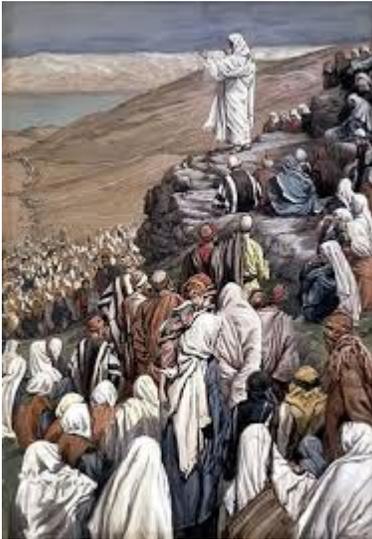


**For The Bulletin Of
January 29, 2017**



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN
WINTER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Before his baptism by St. Ambrose at Easter in AD 387, St. Augustine went to northern Italy near Milan on a kind of retreat. While there he wrote a small work entitled “The Happy Life” in the form of a dialogue with various family members, a typical rhetorical style of the time. With his “dialogue partners” he establishes that all people wish to be happy but that happiness will not be found in material things one desires. Satisfying one desire, another simply emerges. Happiness is not fleeting but is permanent and, therefore, it can only be found in God Who is everlasting. Augustine concludes the happy person is one who possesses God. Possessing God is a matter of living a good life, doing God’s will, and having a clean spirit. No doubt St. Augustine would have been familiar with the Beatitudes. He knew Scripture well. His conclusions about happiness square up

well with the Beatitudes, which lead us away from ourselves and our own desires and toward God. The Beatitudes point to permanency, ultimately, “they will” lead to heaven, to everlasting Life, to seeing God. The “kingdom of heaven” is promised to those who seek the happiness, the blessedness that comes from possessing God.

Jesus announces the blessings for those who live in “the kingdom of heaven.” In this He describes the qualities that mark true discipleship: poor in spirit, mourning loss, meek, seekers of justice, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, bearers of insults and persecution. To be so blessed, so happy, so fortunate requires letting go of self. All these qualities exhibit the self-emptying of Jesus Himself. Blessedness is of, in, and with Jesus – and His followers. Our blessedness is both a quality of who we are and a blueprint for how we are to be and live as followers of Jesus.

Happiness is a factor of how we relate to others – we are to be Jesus’ blessed Presence for others. Gospel living – taking seriously the Beatitudes – turns upside down, the relationships people have with each other and invites a new world order that is the presence of God’s “kingdom of heaven.” And this presence of God’s kingdom is not so much our own doing, as what God is accomplishing in us. Happiness – blessedness – is God’s gift to those who seek God and do God’s will.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The Beatitudes seem to describe behaviors and attitudes that we generally ascribe to those we call “saints.” Yet, all of us can name good people we know – truly good people. We can name the

qualities and actions that lead us to judge them truly good. These (and we ourselves) are truly good – the blessed.

It is awesome to think that our own halting efforts at being really good – at extending mercy, justice, and righteousness to others as God has extended them to us – are one means for bringing God’s blessedness to others! Simply sharing in God’s work of salvation – providing for those in need – is a blessing in itself that brings unequalled happiness. Our deepest happiness comes not from fulfilling our own needs and wants, but from reaching out to others as God reaches out to us in blessing. Happiness that comes from our own desires and efforts is fleeting; the blessings of God that are showered upon us as we live humbly, justly, and faithfully last forever. Here’s the truly amazing part: the happiness we share now is but a taste of our great reward in heaven!

- The Beatitudes are lived in my family, in my parish, in my workplace when...by...
- The letting go of self that blessedness requires includes...
- Jesus calling me to be blessed makes me feel...

About Liturgy: The Final Blessing and Dismissal

From a very early time, the shape of the Eucharist included two divisions, Word and Sacrament. Communion was originally the final act of Eucharist, but early on there was a felt need to formalize the dismissal of the people. The simplest way to do this was in a kind of second post-Communion prayer called the “Prayer Over The People” (which is now a choice that is given with

some prayer formularies). Paralleling the blessings of those who were dismissed earlier in the liturgy (and still present in the prayers accompanying the dismissal of the catechumens in parishes that have implemented the RCIA), there eventually developed a simple blessing over the people. The import of this concluding blessing is to call down God’s help and protection on the people as they leave to take up their daily tasks and lives.

We might interpret this concluding blessing as a kind of shorthand for the Beatitudes. Thus, at every liturgy we are sent forth armed with God’s presence, knowing that whatever difficulties (persecutions) we might encounter in living the Gospel, we are not alone but always accompanied by God. Brief though it is, this final blessing at Eucharist sums up a message that Scripture often reminds us: our God wishes us all good things.

About Liturgical Music: The Importance of the Psalm Refrain

Psalm 146 is used several times in the Sunday Lectionary. Its use this Sunday is a good occasion to reflect on the importance of the psalm refrain. The framers of the lectionary were deliberate in their selection not only of the psalm texts, but also of the refrains. As much as possible they sought a correlation between the psalm and its refrain and the readings of the day, especially in the first reading and the gospel during Ordinary Time. Often, as on this Sunday, the refrain places this connection in a specific light.

This Sunday’s psalm refrain, “Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs,” open up a particular

way for us to understand the first reading and gospel. It opens up a particular way for us to respond to the divine word being proclaimed to us on this particular day in the liturgical year. The refrain “Come and save us,” used with Psalm 146 on the First Sunday of Advent, Year A, opens up a different interpretation and different response. So, too, for example, does the refrain “Praise the Lord!” used on the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. Grasping the significance of the psalm refrain makes all the difference in our hearing of the Liturgy of the Word. On any given Sunday, the refrain helps us hear God’s word more clearly, and respond to that word more fully.



At each liturgy this weekend, it is my privilege to present the Annual Pastoral and Financial Report for 2016. Much more than a listing of statistics and facts, it chronicles the life of our parish over the past year, how God has worked in and through us to build the Kingdom here in our midst. It details all those who have contributed their time, talent, and financial resources to support our programs, ministries, outreaches, and staffing. It gives an accounting of your Stewardship of Treasure, Income and Expenses for the past year as well as presenting the Budget for 2017. It

indicates our goals and objectives for the year to come, and, in a certain way, helps to prepare us for the series of Town Hall Meetings that will take place next month. I hope you will read the report carefully and join us in thanking God for the many blessings that we have experienced in 2016. I want to express special gratitude to **our Office Staff** for creating, editing, and printing the Report. Several sets of “eyes” have proofed the report and we hope that we haven’t forgotten anything or anyone. If you didn’t receive your copy today, additional copies will be available in the Parish Office.



Town Hall Meetings

Three Town Hall Meetings have been scheduled to allow the maximum number of registered parishioners to attend to receive the recommendations of the On Going Concerns Committee which has been hard at work for the last six months. The days and the times of the meetings are as follows:

Wednesday, February 8th, at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, 11:30 a.m., immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be present for one of these important meetings of our congregation.

Liturgical Morning of Enrichment

On Saturday morning, February 11th, we will gather with the liturgical ministers of St. Anne, Byron and St. Bonaventure, Concord for a Morning of Liturgical Enrichment. The day begins with hospitality at 8:30 a.m. followed by Sung Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. Two areas will be addressed: The New Rite of Matrimony and the New Guidelines Regarding Cremation. Everyone present will have the opportunity to be present for each workshop. The morning will conclude with a Rite of Renewal for Ministry. My thanks to **Anthony Arteaga, Director of Liturgy for St. Bonaventure, and Lisa Promani, Pastoral Associate from St. Anne**, for assisting me in planning. All are welcome and there is no fee/charge to attend.



Marriage, Divorce, and Re-Marriage In The Catholic Church

On Wednesday evening, February 15th, at 7:30 p.m., our parish will sponsor an Adult Faith Formation workshop on “Marriage, Divorce, and Re-Marriage in the Catholic Church.” This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how the church addresses this reality, the process of annulments, convalidation, etc. One out of every Catholic marriages ends in divorce and there is a great deal of mis-

information and misunderstanding regarding this subject. Please extend an invitation to anyone you are aware of who could benefit from this workshop. There is no charge to attend.



Adult Confirmation

Our candidates for Adult Confirmation will receive the sacrament at The Cathedral from the Bishop on Saturday, February 18th, at 10:00 a.m. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to complete their initiation.



Lent begins this year on Wednesday, March 1st, with Ash Wednesday. Our schedule of liturgies that day are as follows:

- 8:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
- 12:00 Noon** Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
- 5:30 p.m.** Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
- 7:30 p.m.** Sung Evening Prayer with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes



Simbang Gabi 2017

Following each liturgy last weekend, I met with the members of our Filipino Community to begin planning for this year's Simbang Gabi celebration, December 16 – 24. The response was wonderful! Many people signed up for the choir, instrumentalists, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and breakfast sponsors. If you would like to participate, please see Estrella in the office.

Discernment At Different Stages Of Life – Vanita Hampton Wright

A major gift from Ignatian spirituality is its wisdom about discernment. Discernment enables us to assess situations, pay attention to various clues, approach our decision making prayerfully, and ultimately choose well according to our faith and our life situation.

But discernment is not the same at every stage of life. Each season presents unique challenges that require yet another nuance of Spirit-helped discernment.

When we're young—in late childhood and the teen years—much discernment has to do with recognizing right from wrong. We discern what it means to be honest, to treat others fairly, to admit when we're wrong, and to calculate the outcome of potential actions. Discernment

in these early stages helps us understand ourselves morally. As Christians, we learn, through discernment, to identify what is Christ-like behavior and what is not.

In the years of young adulthood, we face—sometimes quite suddenly—major decisions that can have great impact on the rest of life. Our

discernment at this time has much to do with self-understanding. Am I a good fit to be in relationship with this person, or that one? Am I suited well to this kind of work/career or to something else? By this time, we should have right and wrong figured out for the most part. But what about our priorities? Do our daily choices and actions move us toward what we see as a life purpose?

Into middle adulthood—by this I mean late 30s into the 50s—the discernment gets even trickier, because by now we likely have multiple and appropriate attachments. Many of us are in serious relationships, are parents, have begun careers or at least have established a steady working life. Much of our discernment involves figuring out how all these aspects of life are interacting and where corrections need to be made. We are discerning how to discipline and guide children and how to work through marital difficulties; at the same time, we are moving outward, trying to help others, to be people for others. We probably were helping others years ago, but it's more complicated now that we have multiple obligations.

And in our later years, we must discern how best to use the energies and resources we have. We are likely diminished in some respects—health and income—but may have become freer from unhealthy attachments thanks to a lifetime of learning and discerning. We must discern how involved to become in the problems and pressures of people in our families and our communities. We must discern how we will face our physical/mental decline and also our death.

At each stage of life, discernment may include:

- Identifying patterns of thought or behavior that we need to face and change.
- Identifying deep and lasting wounds and learning how to seek healing and restoration.
- Choosing the best out of multiple good options.
- Dealing with unhealthy attachments; praying and working toward spiritual freedom.
- Discovering the best way to use our resources—gifts, money, time, and energy—to help the world.

Of course, this short article does not touch every area of discernment, only some of the highlights. May you embrace the discernment important to your spiritual journey this day.

From Father Tom Bonacci, C.P.

WE THE PEOPLE



January 21, 2017, will go down in history as a turning point in human consciousness. Women, men, children, babies, and peoples from every sector and over fifty different countries marched in the streets of the World to protest hate, fear, and prejudice. These marchers had many different points of view about many different issues. Some marched for Women and Human Rights,

others walked to protect religious and ethnic minorities, many marched in the Pro-Life Movement, and others for an array of concerns and issues. What they had in common was mutual respect, deep dialogue and a willingness to model in fact the peace our World so deeply longs for in times of conflict and confusion.

The marchers provided an example of how people with different points of view can walk together not merely in protest but profoundly in solidarity as they seek to forge peace by striving for justice.

The Interfaith Peace Project encourages people of any persuasion to realize that behind any issue is a real person who deserves our respect. The powerful example of people walking together with mutual respect, good humor, openness and welcome inspires all of us at The Interfaith Peace Project. We are inspired and challenged to continue our quest to seek peace through Interfaith understanding, respect, dialogue and cooperation.

We realize that protests often need to be passionate and hard-hitting especially in dealing with those issues concerning the safety, dignity and the rights of people to live in peace and security. The worldwide marches of January 21, 2017, may have first been conceived as a day of protest against real or perceived grievances but it turned out to be a day exemplifying the power of the human spirit to be inspired by vision, values and the quest for human dignity.

It is our prayer and our hope that the example of this day will serve as a model for how people of diverse points of view, cultures, languages, and self-

understandings can walk uniquely and faithfully, debate forcefully and respectfully, and always realize the dignity and humanity of all peoples.

Thanks to the marchers of January 21, 2017, the World is not only a better place but a more hopeful place. Thanks to the parents who brought their children to the various marches of the World. May our children grow up in a World where all people can walk in peace and mutual respect.

Peacefully,
Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P



...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who clean and prepare the church and parish hall each week: **Steve Rojek, Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, Cathy Romeo, and Mency Osborne.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...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: **Jeannine Ford, Sofie Zimmerman, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, 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, Dave Costanza, Carole Miller, Judy Quicho and Belen Farin.**

First Reconciliation

This past Friday evening, January 27th, the children in our Sacramental Preparation Program received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations to: **Zeb-Alexander Congson, Avery Del Real, Daniel Galvan, Mark Herrera; Jasmine Betts, Antonella Castillo, Devin Duong, Emily Claire Freking, Kaelyn Hoang, Stephania Madoshi, Kyle Nowland, Dominic Prevot, Angelina Zuloaga** (Tuesday classes); **Leyzy Carrillo, Jodie Hitosis, Kimberly Hoang, Lennex Hoang, Alana Malaspina, Nahvae Malaspina, Eliana Merlos, Leilani Merlos, Alvaro Ramirez, Jocelyn Ramirez and Sophia Tan** (Wednesday class).



Fr. Robert, Phillip Rios, Steve & Frances Rojek, Steven Rojek, GK Dave Simpson, Oscar Tellez, and Pablo Villegas. In addition to these were a number of our Brothers who were in attendance as paying guests.

Crab Feed Success from Steve Rojek

Last Saturday our Knights sponsored their annual Crab Feed and it was a great success in terms of having a great time and making a few dollars. We had right around 100 people in attendance, and seven of our Confirmation students (**Jeffrey Boatright, Joren Hitosis, David Hoang, Celine Paguirigan, Juan Carlo Sandoval, Ilianna Vitug**) helped serve and did a tremendous job keeping food moving from the kitchen to the hall. We also had some generous donations of prizes for our raffle, and great help and support from our Brothers and wives.



The menu included seafood appetizers, mixed green salad, fried calamari, linguini with meat sauce, linguini with clam sauce, garlic bread and delicious Dungeness crab.

The Knights sincerely thank the parishioners of St. Ignatius of Antioch who again came out and supported this event which will help fund the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus.

Thanks to these Knights assisting at the event: **Vince & Kathy Augusta, Bill Barbanica, Don Benson, Tom Bilskemper, Tony & Gail Burgarino, Clem Bushman, Rich Confetti, Brian & Vicki McCoy, Jose Palomino,**