

**For The Bulletin Of
February 12, 2017**



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

From Father Robert

Oh, how we covet our personal freedom! From the “terrible twos” to the self-assertiveness of adolescence to the libertarian idealism of many adults, we prefer making our own free choices about the things of daily living rather than being told what to do. In ages past with fewer people on the planet and living farther apart, governing communities was much simpler and required fewer laws and regulations. But healthy communities have never been lawless. Being together implies a kind of give-and-take that is necessary for the common good. Asserting self at the expense of another is never seen as promoting the good life. Thomas Aquinas defined human law as an ordinance of reason promulgated by the proper authority for the common good.

We might define God’s law as the ordinance of God’s wisdom, promulgated by Jesus Who is the fulfillment of all law, for the righteousness that brings us to be the “greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” God’s law is not about restrictions curbing freedom, but about freeing us to become who God intends us to be.

We need God’s law to guide us because we are imperfect, coming only slowly to the fulfillment that Jesus promises. However, Jesus makes clear that simply keeping the law – as the scribes and Pharisees were so careful about doing – is not enough. The gospel is a lengthy comparison between the law of the Old Covenant (especially as the scribes and Pharisees to whom Jesus refers in the gospel interpreted and lived it) and a new law – a New Covenant – Jesus offers. The point of Jesus’ lengthy discourse is clear: He is challenging us to a whole new covenantal relationship as the basis for interpreting and choosing to keep God’s law. Jesus’ new covenant is built on the right relationships that extend beyond the mandate of the law.

In all the examples in today’s gospel that Jesus gives about the law (“You have heard”), He urges His hearers to live the law to God’s intended fulfillment of it (“But I say”). The intended fulfillment of the law is the righteousness (right relationship with God and others) which identifies those who are the “greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” *The* “greatest in the kingdom of heaven” is Jesus Himself Who is the fulfillment of the law in His very Person. If we are to be “greatest in the kingdom of heaven,” we must encounter Jesus Himself, *the* righteousness One, *the* fulfillment of the law.

No law – whether divine or human – can cover all the right choices we are to make as we journey through life in community. Both the gospel and first reading point to what more is needed: “trust in God,” right choices that bring life to ourselves and others, relying on the wisdom and understanding of God

Who knows us better than we know ourselves. Our own choices for good – for life – can only come when we open ourselves to God’s guidance and wisdom. In this is the promise of fullness of Life. In this is our life in Christ.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Four times in today’s gospel Jesus says these or similar words: “You have heard that it was said...But I say to you...” How easy it is for us to do just the minimum! Jesus invites us to rethink our relationships with others, now on His terms. We are to act with the same loving kindness as God has acted toward us. We must say and mean yes often – a yes that is a choice for life and goodness.

The teaching and message of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount continues to be challenging. How will we respond?

- I fulfill the law as God intended when I...
- The law calls me to relate to God and those around me by...
- My encounters with Jesus help me in my relationships with others when...



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Honor of The Tenth

Anniversary of Marriage of Mark and Jennifer Webster. Congratulations and may God bless you with much happiness and the deepening of your love for one another.

About Liturgy: The Spirit of Liturgical Law

Some people interpret the myriad laws governing the right celebration of liturgy too narrowly. They think these directives only restrict and constrain. While a mechanical approach to liturgical law may well seem like this, there is a different intention about why we have so many laws.

When liturgical law is kept to the letter but without its spirit – without any pastoral concern – then the law does no service to the people. The ritual is reduced to mere rubrics with no life, and people have a right to complain about such application of the law. On the other hand, when liturgical law is almost completely disregarded, then we run a high risk of the liturgy becoming the captive of a few people in the community who shape it to their own understanding rather than God’s wisdom and understanding. In this liturgical scenario liturgy can become quite idiosyncratic, dependent upon the likes and dislikes of a few.

Liturgical Law is not about putting our worship in a straitjacket. It is about drawing on the wisdom of the tradition to best enact the paschal mystery. Faithfulness to the spirit of liturgical law ensures that we celebrate the one liturgy of the whole church. It ensures that we are more than a local expression of the Body of Christ, but are, indeed, a visible presence of the whole church.

Finding a balance between respecting the law and implementing its spirit for the good of the community is not always easy. This is one reason why regular evaluation of the whole liturgical endeavor (rubrics, music choices, postures, environment, etc.) is so important. Ultimately, the criteria for good liturgy is not whether one keeps laws; the criteria is whether the community prays, grows, and decides together to be a community choosing the fullness of life, goodness, and justice.



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

This 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 two 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.



Last Town Hall Meeting Today

The last of three Town Hall Meetings takes place today immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Two previous meetings were held this past Wednesday. The meetings were called in order to present to the entire parish the results of the work of the On Going Concerns Committee over the last six months of 2016. The results have been presented to the Leadership of the parish as well as to me personally and I have accepted their recommendations. We bring them to you today for your consideration and hopefully, consensus.



Adult Confirmation

Our candidates for Adult Confirmation will receive the sacrament at The Cathedral from the Bishop this coming 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 1, 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



Beginning Friday, March 3rd, the First Friday of Lent, our **Knights of Columbus** will once again be offering their Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bingo will also be offered as a part of the evening. Dinners may be eaten in or taken out. Beer and Wine are offered when dining in at a nominal cost and delicious desserts are available without charge for those who dine in. The Lenten Fish Fry will continue on all the Fridays of Lent with the last dinner

being held on Friday, April 7th. Bring your family and friends! All are welcome and invited. All proceeds benefit the charitable programs of our Knights of Columbus.



...to those who cleaned both the church and parish hall last weekend: **Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Steve Rojek, Mency Osborne, and Cathy Romeo.**

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, 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, Karen Oliver, 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 and Judy Quicho.**

From Corazon

Dear Father Robert and Parishioners of St. Ignatius of Antioch,

THANK YOU! You have made a tangible impact on 600 lives! 2016 was an exciting year of continued growth for Corazon. With your contribution we built 36 homes for deserving families, provided scholarships for 596 young people, trained tutors to provide after school homework and support, officially inaugurated our new community center in Cerro Azul and explored the opportunity to work in a new community on the East side of Tijuana.

With the support of community leaders, our families serve their neighbors and earn community service hours. By working alongside our neighbors in Baja, Mexico, we continue to promote self-sufficiency and nurture our own souls in the process. We have united to build long-lasting bonds between thriving, empowered communities. We look forward to continued growth, increased house builds and trainings, and even a new build sign-up system in 2017. Thank you for being a part of Corazon and for changing lives.

Your generous and heartfelt donation of \$9,425.25 in 2016, for which you received no goods or services, built something life changing. Corazon

“Builds Community Across Borders” and you have made it possible to open the door to self-reliance for youth, adults, and communities. Corazon is a tax-deductible, 501C3 non-profit, charitable corporation. Our Tax ID Numbers are Federal: 95-3527450; and California: D-864110.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Tom McMillen, President

Note from Father Robert:

Thank you to our Corazon Ministry for working so hard to raise all the funds donated to Corazon this past year. Your dedication to this ministry is a wonderful example of putting Pope Francis's call to Mercy into action. Your presence and hard work is a blessing to our parish.