

**For The Bulletin Of
April 30, 2017**



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

From Father Robert

It takes a lifetime to learn that perseverance pays off. When a task taxes our energy, takes too long, becomes more burden than joy, our human tendency is to stop doing it. We look to do something else that brings more immediate satisfaction and delight. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had given up on “Jesus the Nazarene” as the “one to redeem Israel.” They did not persevere in looking for Jesus, although they “were still conversing about all the things that had occurred.” They hadn’t quite given up, but their hope was not strong enough to bring them to stay in Jerusalem to determine if Jesus truly “was alive.”

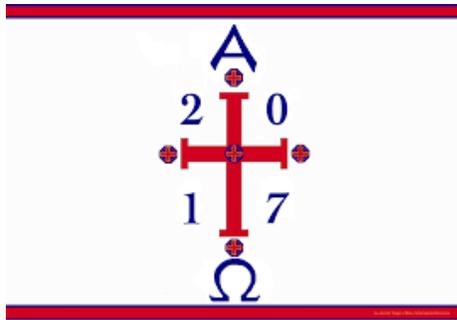
Perseverance easily wavers when we are challenged beyond our capacity. The two disciples allowed their perseverance to waver; belief in a dead-but-now-alive Jesus was beyond their experience, beyond their capacity. But the risen Jesus searched them out, walked with

them, broke bread with them. Their encounter led to an overwhelming transformation moving them from unbelief to belief. Further, after returning to Jerusalem, their newfound belief was confirmed by a community who attested that “The Lord has truly been raised.” We must choose this same journey today, over and over again: encounter the risen Jesus, come to deeper belief, witness to others His risen Presence. Our perseverance in proclaiming Easter joy must grow as our belief in the risen One grows. It takes a lifetime of doing to learn that perseverance pays off.

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus experience an overwhelming transformation in moving from unbelief to belief – not because of any new facts or hearsay, but because of personal encounter with the risen Jesus in His breaking open the Scriptures and the bread with them. Further, after returning to Jerusalem, their newfound belief is confirmed by a community of eyewitnesses who had seen the risen Jesus, too: “The Lord has truly been raised.” The same is true for us today: we are transformed by encountering the risen Christ in word and sacrament, and by the testimony of the community of believers. Word and sacrament and community have the power to restore our perseverance at times of discouragement because they enable us to see for ourselves the new Life that is being offered us.

Though we cannot see Jesus now in the same way as the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we do encounter Him. We must choose to persevere in looking for Him, in seeking the kind of new experiences that shake us out of our

unbelief into grasping the new insight and new Life that the risen One offers. Perseverance matters!



Living The Paschal Mystery

No wonder the early church from the very beginning chose the first day of the week for breaking bread – celebrating Eucharist. That is why, for us, Eucharist – “breaking of bread” – is so pivotal; here we encounter the risen Jesus, share in His meal, and become ourselves the risen Presence for others. Here we engage the dying and rising that is the pattern of our everyday living. Here we engage the mystery of salvation so powerfully that we are shaken out of our limited vision and begin to see ourselves and others as God sees us. Others in our faith community reflect back to us the reality that Jesus is alive and among us, because He is within us. The vision of others, their deep faith, their caring and sharing are all recognizable signs that “the Lord has truly been raised.” We must persevere in our belief.

Has the “Road to Emmaus” story touched your heart? Do you feel like you are on the same journey?

- The kind of conversing that leaves me with a heavy heart like the disciples on the road to Emmaus is...The kind of conversation that leads my hearts to burn within me is...

- The risen Jesus walks with me when...He says to me...
- I find it easiest to witness my belief in Him, and witnessing to others His risen Presence when I...

About Liturgy: Eucharistic Breaking of the Bread

Few parishes have a single loaf of bread that they break at Eucharist. Nonetheless, when the host (usually a large one) is broken during the singing of the “Lamb of God,” this gesture has more than practical import. The breaking of the bread might symbolize for us the call to surrender our own bodies in dying to self for the sake of others as did Jesus. The breaking of the bread also reminds us that we do shares in the same loaf – the risen Christ Himself. This one loaf makes of us, the community of believers, the one Body of Christ. This one loaf helps us come to deeper belief that Jesus is truly risen, that He calls us to carry forth His saving mission that He comes to walk with us on our own journey to eternal life.

As you experience at each Eucharist celebrated by me here at St. Ignatius of Antioch, as presider I hold the consecrated Host up when I break it so that it can be seen easily by everyone present. The singing of the “Lamb of God” accompanies the gesture of the breaking of the bread and ends when the bread has been broken. “Lamb of God” is another phrase that reminds us that this simple rite just before Communion calls us to salvation and new life.



YLI Pasta Dinner

Today, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., our YLI, along with our Social Events Committee and our Knights of Columbus, are sponsoring their annual Pasta Dinner in our parish hall, on the patio, and in the garden. I want to personally thank you for joining us, supporting the YLI, and celebrating both my birthday as I turn 70 as well as **Dorothy Lamendola who turns 89 today, too.** The menu features appetizers, Mixed Green Salad, Garlic Bread, and Pasta with the YLI Secret Sauce! There will also be beer, wine, and dessert to round out the afternoon and early evening.

I am also deeply grateful for all those who have sent birthday cards, included gifts, or made contributions to the Parish Hall Expansion Fund. I have been so blessed to be with you for twelve years and to share with you this wonderful and amazing journey of faith and I am a better person, Christian, Catholic, and priest because of you. Thank you for all you have done to support, affirm, appreciate, pray for, and love me. May God continue to bless us and strengthen us as together we build His kingdom in our midst.

Monthly Cemetery Mass

This coming Saturday, May 6th, I will preside for Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Mortuary at Holy Angels/Holy Cross Cemetery. The liturgy begins at 11:00 a.m. and is offered for all those who have been buried within its hallowed and sacred grounds. You are most welcome to attend.



New Members Brunch

Next Sunday, May 7th, our Pastoral Council is hosting our New Members Brunch in the parish hall immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy. The Leadership of the parish will also be present to introduce themselves and share some of their own story, their discipleship, and to orient our newly-registered members to ministry in the parish. If you plan on attending, please be sure to call the parish office to confirm your presence and in order for the members of the Pastoral Council to prepare food accordingly. Many thanks for your kindness!

Congratulations Confirmandi

This past Saturday, April 29th, our High School Confirmation Class was confirmed in the Cathedral Church

by The Bishop, completing two years of preparation. Congratulations to: **Keana Barreras, Eduardo Carnero, Sheena Dugao, Matthew Herrera, Joren Hitosis, David Hoang, Diego Naranjo, Isabelle Nguyen, Kim Nguyen, Celine Paguirigan, Jared Travers and Illianna Vitug.**

Congratulations First

Communicants

On Saturday evening at the 5:00 pm Liturgy, four of our First Eucharist students received Eucharist for the first time. Congratulations to: **Nahvae Malaspina, Alana Malaspina, Leilani Merlos and Eliana Merlos.**



...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who came early last Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend and week ahead: **Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, Cathy Romeo, Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Mercy Osborne, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Steve Rojek, Mary**

Ewing, Patricia Britton, Virginia Noack, 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, Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Rowena Cayaban.**

...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 and Vangie Parrilla.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Steve Rojek, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Bob Goncalves and various members of the Knights of Columbus.**

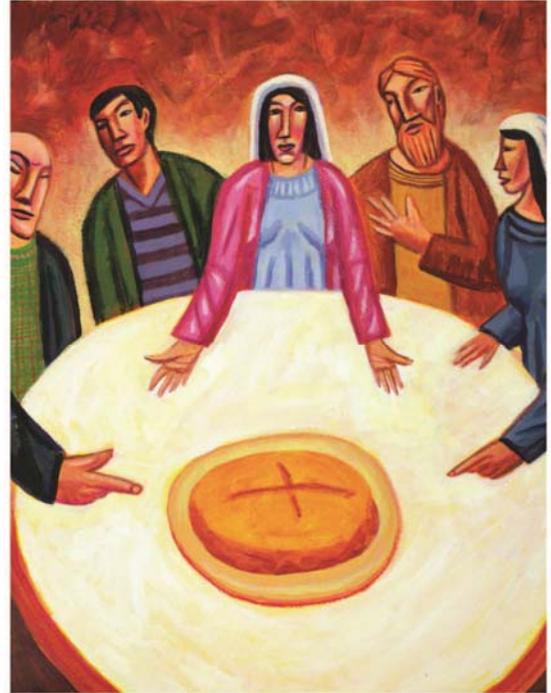
First Quarter Financial Report

The First Quarter Parish Financial Report prepared by the Finance Council is included in today's bulletin. The report highlights important financial information for

the first 3 months of the year. This report is also available on the parish website.

Plant Sale

Thank you to everyone who purchased plants or made a donation in support of our Garden Ministry. More than \$500 was raised to help offset the garden's irrigation costs to the parish. Unsold vegetable plants were planted in the parish garden this week. As summer approaches, fresh tomatoes, zucchini and cucumbers will supplement the canned goods that are donated to St. Vincent de Paul each week. Thank you again for your generosity. Everyone is welcome to visit the garden located behind the tent area. Ongoing work parties are scheduled every Tuesday morning from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.



In the Breaking of the Bread

Father of all creation,
On the road of our daily life,
whether at home or at work,
may we help our families and others
to know of your love and compassion.
May our hearts burn with the zeal
of those who walked the road with Jesus,
so that when our days come to a close,
our eyes will be opened.
In our common acts of sharing
and feasting,
may we see the risen Lord in one another.
May the peace, love, and blessing
of your Son
rest on the tables where we gather.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.