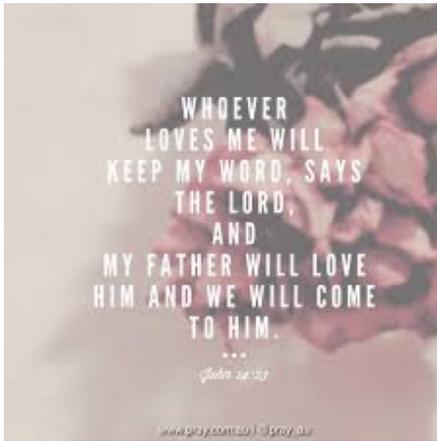


For The Bulletin Of May 21, 2017



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From Father Robert

Self-will is mighty strong. Some children learn to say “No!” even before they say “Mama” or “Dada.” Self-will is a form of self-assertion whereby we establish boundaries around ourselves, determine our own destiny, protect ourselves from doing what we don’t want to do. When our self-will is overly strong and selfish, we rail against any rules and laws and commandments. We want to do this, not that. If we were the only person in the world, this behavior might be OK. But we’re not the only person in the world. So from early on in our lives we learn the value of curbing our own selfish wills and choosing to behave in a manner that enhances the quality of life for all.

In today’s gospel Jesus is telling His disciples to “keep my commandments.” He is shaping our self-wills in a way well beyond choosing simple actions. He is drawing us out of ourselves and

our self-will into Him and His self-giving.

There is more to what Jesus is saying than meets the eye. When Jesus says to keep His commandments as a sign of our love for Him, HE is not only speaking about simple laws or commands. He is saying that if we love Him, we will believe as he believed, live as he lived. Loving Jesus as He asks requires us to believe and live in such a way that others know the resurrection is real, that Jesus is really present, that Jesus still cares for us deeply (“I will not leave you orphans.”)

Our love for Jesus is shown in the same way as the early disciples showed their love – by practical doing in our everyday living. Like Philip and Peter and John, we are to proclaim the living Christ by the way we heal hurts in others; bring a caring touch to those who are ailing in any way; strengthen those who are weak or paralyzed by fear, doubt, or selfishness; encourage those weighed down with too much stress, work, or indecision. All this is keeping Jesus’ commandments by living His way of Life – a life characterized by deep care for others. The most encouraging aspect of the gospel is that Jesus even sends us the help we need to love, believe, and live in this way.

Jesus’ commandments entail much more than doing this or avoiding that. His commandments are to love as He loved, believe as He believed, live as He lived. His commandments are the most self-engaging and challenging of all! How comforting, then, when Jesus says “I will not leave you orphans.” No, we are not orphans: the risen Jesus comes to us. How? In “the Spirit of truth.”

Living The Paschal Mystery

So much of our life seems anything but connected to Jesus and expressive of our love for Him. Our sheer busyness hardly leaves us with a moment to catch our breath, let alone be concerned about loving Jesus.

Loving Jesus doesn't require that we pray all the time or that we are consciously aware of Jesus' presence. Loving Jesus is a simple matter of keeping His commandments – being gentle and reverent toward others, having a clear conscience, doing good. For most of us we are already doing what we need to do to be good Christians; what more is needed is to recognize that these good actions are the way we keep Jesus' commandments and express our believing in Him. In other words, His commandments are pretty simple to know: love as He loved, believe as He believed, be self-giving as He was, do the Father's will as He did. Most of all, keeping His commandments means opening ourselves to the Spirit Who dwells within us and makes us like the Risen One.

Today's gospel raises challenging questions once again. How shall we respond?

- I know I love Jesus when...I struggle to love Jesus when...
- I feel like an orphan when...Jesus comes to me by...and...
- Living Jesus' commandments demands that I...



About Liturgy: Baptism – The First Sacrament of Belonging

For too many Christians baptism is something that happened in the past and rids us of original sin. While that is true, there is more. The most startling effect of baptism is that we are not left orphans (as Jesus promises in today's gospel) – God makes us daughters and sons (members of the Body of Christ) by sharing with us His life. It is at baptism that we first receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – the Advocate Who helps us live as Jesus did and thus show our love for Him.

All of the goodness we do in our life flows from this basic relationship with God. Growing in our love for Jesus means that we are growing in our ability to live as Jesus lived. Thus, baptism is a sacrament that permeates all we are and everything we do. At Easter we renewed our baptismal promises and all through the Easter Season we use the thanksgiving over the Baptismal Font and Sprinkling Rite to remind of us our baptism. All this takes place at this particular time of the year for good reason – that we equate our resurrection faith with growing in our love for Jesus.

Memorial

The Memorial Funeral Liturgy for James Allen Ekstrom

This coming Friday, May 26th, we will celebrate the Memorial Funeral Liturgy for James Allen Ekstrom, husband of Vi. Jim and Vi are Charter Members of the parish. The Liturgy begins at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon reception in our parish hall. Committal will take place at the National Cemetery in Dixon.



The Feast of the Ascension

Next weekend, May 27th and 28th, we celebrate The Feast of the Ascension. The feast has been moved from Thursday so that more of our people may experience and celebrate it.



Pentecost

The Great Fiftieth Day of the Easter Season will be celebrated on Sunday June 4th. The color for the day is RED and we invite you to be sure to wear RED to contribute to the environment and and Spirit of the day. Pentecost brings the Easter Season to a conclusion as well as to Mystagoga, the final period of initiation for our neophytes.



...to all those who so generously donated items for last weekend's "Mary Project", new or gently used baby clothing and products for young mothers through Birthright of Brentwood. We continue to be grateful to **Kathleen Stuhlreyer Clarke** for establishing this wonderful outreach and overseeing it, and along with her dad, **Bill Stuhlreyer**, and her children, **Mary and Joe**,

deliver all the gifts to Birthright, which was done this past Monday morning.

*Thank
You*

...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who arrived very early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Rose Salamanca, Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our faithful parishioner volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, Virginia Noack, and Steve Rojek.**

...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 Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...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 Belen Farin.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Dave Simpson.**

Maîtres des Hauts de France

Mark your summer calendars now for **Sunday, July 23rd at 7:30 p.m.**

St. Ignatius of Antioch will host The French Boys Choir, Young Singers of Lambersart under the direction of Jerome Cupelli. This is going to be a unique event in the history of our parish. So far, three families have offered to host the boys and adults. This would be a wonderful opportunity for everyone concerned! Watch my insert and the bulletin for more details.

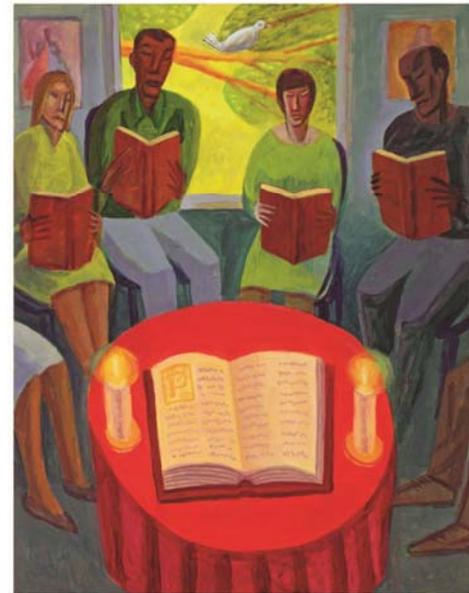
Winners of Mary's Project Raffle

Congratulations to the following Mary's Project raffle winners who brought in baby items for Birthright in Brentwood this last weekend. The Knights of Columbus handed out raffle tickets to everyone who participated in this event. The winners are: 5:00 p.m. mass – **Geraldine Womack**, 8:00 a.m. mass – **Pat Prejza**, and the 10:00 a.m. mass – **Tina Costanza.**



Norway Trip Set

Two weeks ago, I met with Linda Grelli from Black Diamond Travel and we discussed the different possibilities for a trip to Scandinavia. We decided on a 16 day trip that will take us to Copenhagen, Denmark, followed by touring Sweden, and concluding in Norway. The cities to be visited include: Copenhagen, Roskilde, Stockholm, Sigtuna, Uppsala, Falun, Dales and Lakes to Lillehammer, Geiranger, Fjaerland, Fjordland, Leikanger, The Flam Railway to Bergen, Mountains and Fjords to Oslo where the trip will conclude. We will fly on SAS round trip from San Francisco. The tentative dates are from August 6, 2018 to August 22, 2018. Because of the fluctuation of the dollar, we are not yet able to give you the price of the airfare and land portion of the trip. I am only able to take 30 people. If you are interested in going, please speak with me and I will place your name on the list. Once we know how many are going, I will arrange a meeting to discuss all the details. The tour is arranged through Insite Tours which is an outstanding company with whom I have traveled in the past. Linda Grelli has asked that you NOT call her at Black Diamond Travel to ask about the trip! Thank you for your consideration.



Send Us Your Spirit

Father of all creation,
 your Son told us
 that the way to love him
 is to keep your Commandments,
 and for those who do,
 the Advocate will come.
 Give us wisdom and strength
 to understand and follow the Law
 so we may receive the Holy Spirit.
 Fill us with the gifts of the Spirit,
 so that we too, like your disciples,
 may be sent out to testify to the
 Resurrection of your Son.
 Let our Easter alleluias rise up
 within us,
 and spur us on to service.
 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.