

**For The Bulletin Of
July 1, 2017**



**THE 13TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Whenever there is a discussion about prayer, the question that most often arises is about distractions. We have every good intention to keep ourselves focused on God, but our mind tends to have a mind of its own. Our thoughts wander. We begin to think about what we forgot to buy at the grocery but need to make dinner, why the children aren't home yet, the harsh words we exchanged with someone, how tired we are, why we can't figure out the new cell phone. Our behaviors and choices can wander, too. We are serious about following Jesus' commandment of love, but find ourselves slipping when we choose to fritter away our time on too much television watching rather than spending it with someone who is lonely, or when we stretch a fifteen minute break at work into a half hour, or when we needlessly tear into another over some small annoyance. It is so difficult for us to be consistently single-minded about prayer and Gospel living. In fact, it is pretty

difficult for us to be single-minded about anything!

In today's Gospel Jesus is calling His apostles (and us) to single-mindedness. He clearly states that HE is to be above everyone and everything in our lives – even family. This is a pretty radical single-mindedness! But this does not mean that we ignore others. Jesus also says that whoever receives His followers receives Him. Jesus is reminding us that our relationship to Him is expressed in our relationship with each other. In giving and receiving we make evident that Jesus is the center and focus of our lives. In giving and receiving we lose our lives for the sake of others. In giving and receiving we find fullness of Life – Jesus Himself.

We can't receive unless someone gives. When we think about it, so much of our lives depends upon the generosity of others. And all life and everything we do depends upon the utter generosity of God. God gives everything. God created this world, God saves us from our wandering, God graces us with the divine Presence and love. God's greatest Gift, of course, is Jesus. Jesus took on our human flesh with all its weaknesses, except that Jesus never sinned. Because Jesus understands our tendency to wander, He reminds us to keep love of God above everyone and everything, full well knowing how difficult that is for us. Full well knowing how willing we are to "take up His cross" but then stumble through our wandering into selfishness and greed and putting ourselves first.

Jesus reminds us that we cannot always be takers. To "take up His cross" and lose our life for Jesus' sake means that

we must be givers as well as receivers. In giving to each other we learn to receive from God. In giving to each other we learn the self-giving that defines a disciple of Jesus. In giving to each other we learn that we are Jesus' Presence to others, even when we wander.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Jesus calls us to form a good habit of thinking about others as we think about Him and ourselves. He is not asking us to neglect ourselves, but to become as generous in our self-giving as He is. On our own this would be almost impossible. We have His assurance that in giving we find life, in giving we find the reward of the righteous, in giving we find Him. Every act of self-giving is really an act of receiving! The "reward" we receive is strengthened relationships, being drawn to Jesus so we wander less, the satisfaction of known we have lightened another's burden, the abiding Presence of Jesus Himself and the fullness of Life He offers to those who are faithful.

Today's Gospel is truly one of the most challenging Gospels for anyone who aspires to be a "Jesus follower." What will my response be?

- I struggle to keep Jesus as the center and focus of my life when...
- I tend to ignore others when...What brings me back to losing my life for their sake is...
- What I give to others...for others...What I receive is...

About Liturgy: Ordinary Time Journey

Although we have been in Ordinary Time since Pentecost, we've only

celebrated it one Sunday since then (the two Sundays after Pentecost were the Solemnities of the Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ). Where the Lectionary picks up this Sunday is fortuitous, for it readily captures the intent of Ordinary Time: to walk with Jesus on His paschal journey, indicated by the poignant phrases "take up His cross" and "whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

The color for Ordinary Time is green, the same as that of nature during a period of life and growth. As we journey deeper into the paschal mystery during these months, it is good for us to keep the life-giving aspect of this time of the year in mind. What Ordinary Time is about is our walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is through the dying and rising mystery that we receive the Life of God within us and deepen it each time we celebrate Liturgy.

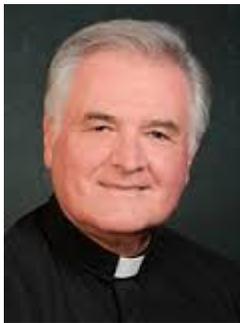


The Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **Michael Angelo Lamendola** by his wife, **Dorothy**, and the members of the Lamendola-Ford Family.

Welcome Chief Tammany Brooks!



Today, Sunday, July 2nd, at our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, we will have the honor of welcoming our newly-sworn Police Chief, **Tammany Brooks**, to the parish. We will have the opportunity to bless him for his new position and the great responsibilities that come with being the Chief of Police. It is also Hospitality Sunday so you will be able to meet and congratulate him after the liturgy in the Gathering Plaza. Welcome, Chief "T!"



Welcome Father Mangini!

Father Richard Mangini is no stranger to our parish or to anyone in our Diocese. He has served as Pastor of St. Bonaventure Catholic Community for the last 22 years and has just retired after 50 faithful years of service. Some time ago he and I had a conversation in which he expressed his desire to be with us here at St. Ignatius of Antioch and to continue ministry with us. Needless to say, I was thrilled that he asked to be here and will share in the preaching and presiding on weekends and weekdays. He is with us this weekend for the first

time and I know you will welcome him joyfully. His presence with us will begin a wonderful new chapter in ministry with and among us. Welcome, Father Richard!



The French Boys Choir

Save **Sunday, July 23rd at 7:30 pm** when the French Boys' Choir, Young Singers of Lambersart under the direction of Jerome Cupelli, will sing a concert at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church as part of their 2017 American Tour.

The choir consists of 30 boys, the conductor and staff. Their program will be mixed sacred and secular music with something for everyone to enjoy. Invite your family, your relatives, and friends to come to this very special concert. We want to have the choir leave Antioch after singing their concert to a packed church! There will be no tickets, but a free-will offering will be taken.

We also need housing for the choir for two nights - Saturday, July 22nd and Sunday, July 23rd. **Could you host some of the choir for those two nights?**

There is a minimum of two boys that have to be hosted together and they need to stay with the same host both nights. Everyone who is hosting the choir must take the VIRTUS training online and also be finger printed, which are requirements of the Diocese of Oakland.

This is not difficult and we will make this as easy as possible for you. You will find hosting some of the choir to be one of the greatest experiences to share

the culture of two countries and make new friends from France. If you would like to host some members of the choir, please call the parish office at 778-0768 and speak to Maryann Peddicord.

Town Hall Meeting Update – Building Project

As reported in the first quarter financial report:

- (1) The parish temporarily suspended our capital campaign fundraising efforts. All funds remain restricted and are NOT being used for parish operations.
- (2) A well-respected architectural firm, Loving and Campos Architects of Walnut Creek, was engaged to provide a feasibility opinion for modifying the existing facility. No campaign funds will be used to cover this cost.
- (3) A letter was sent requesting guidance from the Diocese with respect to a proposed expansion of the existing facility.

Current Status: As part of suspending active fundraising for the campaign, the Building Fund envelope was removed from the monthly envelope packets and all EFT transfers to the Building Fund were halted.

In May, the Diocese responded to our letter and requested a feasibility study showing that any proposed expansion could reasonably be expected to be completed with the funds already on hand. This provision was already included in our request to Loving and Campos. Further, the Diocese stated in their response that we would NOT be required to pay off the **parking lot loan** prior to beginning any construction should we move ahead with this project.

This is a wonderful concession on the part of the Diocese and was granted because of our consistent \$5,000 monthly payments on the parking lot loan which will continue.

We are still awaiting a draft study from the architects.

There are additional steps necessary once we receive the feasibility study. Assuming the study contains good news, we will begin meeting again with the city planning and engineering staffs. Once all the steps are completed, the proposal will be brought to the parish for approval to move forward.



...to our wonderful church cleaners who arrive very early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Steve Rojek, Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, and Emilia Freking.**

...to our wonderful bathroom cleaners who care for and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, 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:

Sofie Zimmerman, Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Yvette 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, Judy Quicho and Belen Farin.**

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

[Thomas Reese](#) | *Jun. 22, 2017*
[Faith and Justice, USCCB Summer 2017](#)

The meetings of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have been tedious and boring in recent years and I saw no reason to think that things would be any better this spring. In fact, at their meeting the bishops discussed some very important issues affecting the church and American society. How much progress they made is another issue.

First the church.

One important topic that the bishops discussed is the October 2018 [Synod of Bishops on youth and vocations](#). The

prospect of a large group of celibate old men talking about young people is not enthralling, but with Pope Francis this synod might be different.

The U.S. bishops would have to be blind not to recognize that the church has a problem with young people. According to [Pew Research Center](#), one out of three people raised Catholic have left the church. Almost half of those left before reaching 18. These are not people who are Catholics but don't go to church; these are people who say that they are no longer Catholic. This is a devastating exodus unprecedented in the life of the Catholic Church in America.

"The synod indeed comes at a critical time," Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, told the bishops in his opening remarks. "We know that there are both challenges and opportunities here in the U.S. The increased amount of disconnected millennials is certainly a concern for us, as is the decline and the delay of marriage among young people." Despite the exodus, Tobin see hopeful signs, including "the high interest among millennials during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent" and "the continued importance in our ministries and outreach to young people which have a positive effect on vocational discernment."

While I am less optimistic, Tobin did present a smart strategy for the American bishops. He encouraged them to participate in conversation with young people and emphasized that listening is an essential part of this conversation. "This is a time to learn from youth and young adults, to listen to their stories and to engage them in authentic dialogue," he said. "We can also remember that

youth and young adults are the agents, not the objects, of this process and of this synod. So they must have as much at stake in this as we do.

"Further, we can involve leaders in youth, campus and young adult ministries, vocations, marriage and family life — all who connect with youth and young adults in their work." This is certainly in line with Francis' plans for the synod. The Vatican has created an [online questionnaire](#) inviting young people from all over the world to participate and give input to the synod. By doing this, the pope is modeling how other bishops should listen to young people prior to the synod.

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia explained the questionnaire to the bishops and encouraged them to consider two main questions:

- How can bishops most effectively accompany youth and young adults in their baptismal call to missionary discipleship and in their vocational discernment — whether marriage, ordained ministry or consecrated life?
- How is the U.S. Catholic Church listening to youth and young adults, and what are the best practices in the ministry of accompaniment that are worth sharing with the universal church at the synod?
- "Listening and accompanying" is a pastoral style quite different from patriarchal style of "teaching and directing." The pastoral style recognizes that these youths are adults who cannot be forced into prefabricated molds. Trust and understanding are essential to a fruitful conversation. The result may be accompanying people on a lifelong

pilgrimage, rather than preparing them for an entrance exam.

The theme of listening was also emphasized by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S. He sees listening as essential to the missionary attitude that Francis is encouraging in the church.

"Do we listen — even to those with whom we disagree — so that we might propose the essentials of the Gospel in a more persuasive, life-changing way?" Pierre asked. "It is important to listen to the laity, who have a particular expertise, real faith and devotion; to the clergy and religious; and to one another as bishops, acting in a collegial and synodal way, to produce the best pastoral response to the challenges of our times."

He also reminded the bishops of the pope's call to "go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel." Included in the peripheries are the young people to whom the nuncio asked the bishops to listen. Hopefully, the bishops will listen not only to young Catholics but also to all those young people who have left the church. Besides the synod, the bishops also discussed religious liberty and immigration.

After extensive discussions, the bishops voted 132-53 in favor of transforming their Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty into a permanent committee of the conference.

In the U.S. Senate, that would be considered an overwhelming margin, but conflict is evident any time the bishops'

conference has more than 10 votes against the passage of a resolution. The Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty was created in 2011 and spent much of its energies fighting the Obama administration's requirement that all health insurance programs include coverage of contraceptive care. With the election of President Donald Trump, it looks like all religious institutions and perhaps all employers who object to such coverage will be able to exclude it. Despite the Trump election, Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore recommended making the ad hoc committee permanent because he saw more challenges to religious freedom on the horizon. Cardinals Timothy Dolan of New York and Donald Wuerl of Washington agreed.

"The challenge to religious liberty is a growing one," said Wuerl. "The dominant culture increasingly now finds that it's not just a matter of disagreeing with religious principles and positions. But there's a certain level of hostility becoming more and more evident. ... This problem is not going to go away." As a standing committee, the bishops will elect the chair of the religious liberty committee who can only serve for two years. Lori has been chair of the ad hoc committee since its creation in 2011. Some of the issues the committee will have to address are the growing pressures on Catholic hospitals and doctors to perform procedures (abortions, sterilization, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, sex-change surgery, assisted suicides, etc.) contrary to Catholic teaching. In addition, religious institutions and employers are now dealing with issues like adoptions by gay spouses, benefits for spouses of gay employees, and the

treatment of employees who do not practice the teachings of the church. The bishops are especially concerned about efforts to defund Catholic charities, health care, schools, and development projects if they object to certain activities on religious grounds. Other bishops felt the emphasis on religious liberty overshadowed concerns about justice and peace. This was especially true since a day earlier the bishops had let their working group on immigration go out of existence. The group, established last November, had put forth official statements opposing three executive orders involving immigration and immigrants that the Trump administration had issued in its first week in office. It also advised the bishops on dealing with other immigration issues.

The bad optics of allowing this working group to go out of existence at a time when immigrants are growing more fearful caused the bishops to reverse themselves and allow the immigration group to continue. Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego argued that the bishops should stay "on a level of heightened alert because our people are on a level of heightened alert because of the fears among them. [The fears] are not imaginary, and they have been stoked by particular actions and words and legislative orders."

The bishops also found major problems in the American Health Care Act passed by the House of Representatives. Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, called "on the Senate to strip away harmful promises of the AHCA or start anew with a better bill."

The bishops were also troubled by Trump's proposed budget cuts, including the \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, which they said would "destabilize our own Catholic health care apostolates, take food from the mouths of school-aged children and the homebound, and deny already scarce medical resources to the nation's neediest in every state across the land."

Young people, religious freedom, health care, and immigration are all serious issues that deserve serious consideration by the U.S. bishops. But the question remains: Will the talk be followed by action? The bishops have given great emphasis to the religious liberty debates in the United States, but how vocal have they been on the other issues? Some bishops argue that they have spoken out on these other issues but that the media only covers the bishops when they participate in the culture wars. Whatever the case, a better strategy is needed.

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Empty gestures won't fix health care

[NCR Editorial Staff](#) | Jun. 23, 2017
As grateful as we are for these displays of civility and human concern, we cannot forget that the reality of governance calls for real work.

In the days following the shooting of a congressman, an aide, a lobbyist, and two police officers at a ball park in Alexandria, Virginia, we saw members of Congress rise above division and partisanship, giving us a glimpse of the true promise this body of elected officials holds.

"An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us," House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican from Wisconsin, proclaimed from the floor of the House later that day, declaring that "it is humanity that will win the day." The Democratic House leader, Nancy Pelosi of California, echoed Ryan's words, calling the attack "an injury in the family." She added a prayer that "we can resolve our differences" in a way that "takes us closer to *e pluribus unum*."

Still, the political leadership of Washington was shaken. Reporting in the *Christian Science Monitor* caught the mood on Capitol Hill: "Party labels were shattered as lawmakers united around their common humanity and American-ness. ... They denounced violence and appealed to each other and the public for more listening and less yelling."

We deeply regret the violence perpetrated against these public servants. Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the House majority whip, especially will have a long, difficult road to recovery. Our prayers are with him and the other victims. We pray, too, for the family of the gunman, James T. Hodgkinson III, who was shot by the security detail and died later of his injuries.

The statements and actions by our elected officials in the aftermath of the shooting — Vice President Mike Pence

went to Capitol Hill to donate blood in support of those wounded — were genuine expressions of the common humanity that binds us all together. For that we are thankful.

We can see in these expressions the sincere longing for *e pluribus unum* but also recognize it is far more difficult to realize in the reality of legislating than it is in emotional and heartfelt expressions of sorrow. As grateful as we are for these displays of civility and human concern in the face of extreme circumstances, we cannot forget that the reality of governance is difficult and calls for real work. “Humanity will win the day” is a noble sentiment, but it means little without policies that award humanity a victory.

At this time, right now, a significant portion of Americans are in serious risk of losing access to a basic human right: health care. Their lives are in danger. If ever an issue cried out for public displays of civility, compassion and united action, it is health care. If Congress truly wanted to become a body that talks and listens, right now at this time, there is no better issue to open for discussion than health care reform. But those words are betrayed by contrary action. Instead of an open, public debate over this issue that is so crucial to this nation, Republican Senate leaders — all men — worked behind closed doors to fashion legislation that has more to do with scoring a political victory than fixing health care.

The legislation was released June 22, and its details are no less disturbing than those of its counterpart in the House. Our No. 1 concern is the changes both

bills would make to the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 20 percent of all Americans — 70 million people — receive their health care cover through Medicaid. The 51-year-old program covers 40 percent of all children in this nation.

And yet, the bill would phase out the expansions to Medicaid that were a result of the Affordable Care Act. And, it would place a huge burden on states to fund the cost of providing Medicaid to their poor and disabled men, women and children. In other words, the level of coverage will depend even more so on where people live, a choice most poor Americans do not have.

People who live in poverty, in nursing homes, with disabilities — these are not the voters politicians tend to court. They like to keep older Americans on their side, and so the bill would not make major changes to another federal health care program, Medicare. And they like the wallets of the rich, so wealthier Americans will see their tax bills reduced.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has made it his personal project to bring the bill to vote before July 4. Why? According to *The Hill*, “McConnell does not want the Obamacare debate to eat up more precious legislative time, with nearly half the year gone and congressional Republicans and President Trump still looking for a major legislative victory.” Once the bill is put before the Senate, McConnell will allow — in the place its members take pride in calling “the world’s greatest deliberative body” —

only 10 to 20 hours for debate. So much for more listening.

McConnell has said he will “make every effort to pass a bill that dramatically changes the current health care law.” Score one for political victory, but what about the needs of the people? What about the millions of Americans who are likely to lose health insurance? When will they be heard?

It is well and good that Republicans and Democrats can stand in a prayer circle holding hands, raising up their wounded colleagues, but that is an empty gesture if they do not act on critical issues. We can find no more critical issue than health care of all Americans.

This is a dark time for American politics, but we have seen glimmers of what could be. Now is a time when we must reclaim the rights and duties bestowed on us by our Constitution and our heritage. We must demand that we be heard. Contact your elected officials and demand this bill be stopped. Too much is at risk. The Affordable Care Act needs fixing, but how to fix it must be discussed in open, public debate, and reforms must come from an honest decision-making process.