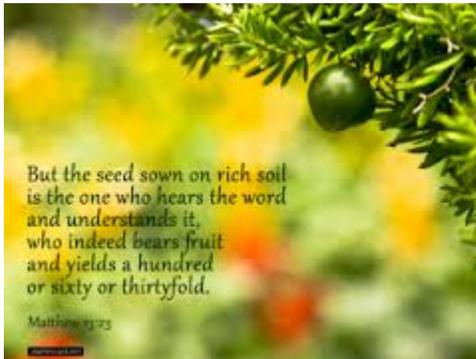


For The Bulletin Of July 16, 2017



THE 15TH SUNDAY IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

We have all had the experience of talking about something important to someone and having the sense that our words are falling on deaf ears. We might even exclaim, “Will you please *listen* to me?” We are saying that physically hearing the sounds of words and sentences is not satisfying to us. When we are saying something important to others, we want them to listen to our hearts, listen to our lives, listen to us. We want them to take us into themselves. Listening is a relational activity. It is an exchange of person with person.

Today’s gospel is challenging us to listen to the words of Jesus. It is challenging us to an exchange of person with Person.

Jesus tells a parable about sowing the seed-word, receptivity to the seed-word, and fruitfulness of the seed-word. He even explains to His disciples what the parable means. Ultimately, to bear fruit the seed-word must take root in rich soil. And we can take the parable and its

interpretation one step further. The sower and the seed is Jesus Himself, *the* Word. The rich soil is our own hearts open to hearing and understanding that Word. Are our hearts open? Are we willing to listen to Jesus as a relational activity, exchanging person with Person?

Because Jesus’ word challenges us to conform ourselves more perfectly to Him, we tend to close our hearts to listening to it and limit our response to living it. Yes, there is resistance to Jesus’ word and only He can overcome it. Jesus sows the seed-word and desires that His word be heard with the heart and lived.

“Such large crowds gathered around” Jesus. He is scattering “the word of the kingdom” far and wide. Yet, many “look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.” These look for the wrong seed and its fruit. Jesus is the Sower Who is sowing the seed of Himself, *the* Word of God. Leave the sowing of the seed to God – God does so with abandon and produces abundance. Leave the listening with our hearts to each of us – which we must also do with abandon to produce abundance.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Only seed that sinks into rich soil – our very hearts – can produce fruit. Our daily Gospel living is about tilling and fertilizing and constantly preparing the “soil” of our hearts so that we can receive Jesus’ seed-word and nurture it to bear fruit. We must let Jesus’ seed-word sink deep within us so that it can bear fruit in our daily living, “achieving the end for which God sent it.”

Most of us hear God’s word proclaimed primarily during the Liturgy of the Word

at Liturgy on Sundays. It is naïve to think that we can go to the celebration of Eucharist cold, without having prepared the readings, and be attuned enough to God's word to hear and remember the message well enough to live it. One way to deepen our Gospel living is to take quality time each week – alone or with others – to sit with God's word and become attuned to its message. This is how we cultivate our hearts to hear God's word, so it is not wasted on barren hearts.

We also hear God's word through the words of others. A challenging remark that moves us to new action on behalf of others, a critical remark that causes us to look at our own behavior and choices, a kind remark that brings us joy are all ways God's word comes to us, and ways we can sow the seed of God's word in the hearts of others.

What would happen if every person who worships at our parish were to prepare for Sunday liturgy by making time to read and pray over the readings for that particular Sunday?

- What helps me to be rich soil for God's Word is...
- My heart is most open to hearing and understanding Jesus, *the* Word when...
- My daily living witnesses to a heart open to God's word when I...

About Liturgy: Interpreting Scriptures

This Sunday's gospel is one example of a parable included an interpretation by Jesus. His interpretation at the end of the long form of the gospel is part of the conversation He has with His disciples about who is able to listen to Jesus'

message. In this interpretive context, then, Jesus' explanation of the parable centers around who can listen and who cannot.

Although an interpretation of the parable is actually given in the gospel itself, interpreting Scripture need not be strictly limited to such explanations which more likely arose from the community where the gospel text was written than from the mouth of Jesus Himself. Scripture truly is the Word of God, yet it always has layers and layers of meaning and this is why year after year we keep coming back to these Scripture passages.

The nature of Jesus' parables is to be evocative. Parables have many layers of meaning, which is why we can come back to them over and over and still learn from them. While we surely do not discount the interpretation given in the gospels for some of Jesus' parables, we must keep in mind that the cultural and community context which gave rise to that particular interpretation is of another time and people. These given interpretations might tweak our imaginations to think in other ways about the word Jesus is giving us.

Consequently, there are different, legitimate approaches to understanding the gospel parables. While acknowledging the interpretation of the parable given by the early community where the gospel text arose, the Lectionary structure suggests that this is not the only possible interpretation and application of the parable. Indeed, all the interpretations together keep opening up new meanings of God's word for us so that it can achieve "the end for which God sent it."

Antioch Shelter Project (ASP)
From Gary Kingsbury

Current Status – July 2017

The City of Antioch informed us at our meeting on June 8th that they are going to issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) regarding use of their property on Delta Fair Blvd. for an emergency shelter for women and children. The RFP should be issued by the end of July.

The New Life Dream Center will review the RFP and decide whether to submit a proposal. We are also interested in partnering with other community organizations regarding a joint proposal, or supporting a stronger organization to help the vulnerable in our community. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Contra Costa County released their 2017 Point In Time Count of the visible homeless in January. The visible homeless dropped in Antioch to 137 from 164 in 2016. East County as a whole dropped to 280 from 301 in 2016, though an increase was reported in Pittsburg. County-wide homeless dropped to 1,607 from 1730 in 2016.

The drop in Antioch and East County appears to be due to increased county services in Central County, while East County experienced a loss of day services and no new services.

We believe that the total homeless in Antioch and East Contra Costa County has actually increased because single mothers and their families are being priced out of housing. Many are living in their cars and being as invisible as possible to avoid physical and sexual threats on the streets. Please keep them

in prayer and how God wants His church to respond this need!

Our website, www.antiochcshelter.org, has our current information. Or follow us on Facebook: Antioch Shelter Project. Tamika's phone number is 510-384-4292 and Gary's is 206-962-1496. Our email address is antiochsp@gmail.com. Let us know if you have any questions, suggestions, or are interested in helping.

Thank you for all your support!
Blessings,
Gary



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.

Annual Backpack Outreach Project

In support of Catholic education, St. Ignatius of Antioch is sponsoring our 9th Annual Backpack and School Supplies Drive for our adopted school, St. Peter Martyr. The teachers have prepared lists of supplies that each student needs to begin the new school year. **Please see the insert in this week's bulletin.** You're invited to select a grade, purchase a new backpack, and fill it with the supplies listed. Donations of individual supply items included in the lists below such as packages of #2 pencils, wide-ruled binder paper, folders (bottom-pocket type), 12" rulers, paper

towels, etc. are also welcome. Please bring your donations to the weekend liturgies on August 5-6.

Thank You

...to our volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend and the week ahead: **Heather Hatteroth, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Carole Miller, Jack Goncalves, and Kathy Romeo.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Steve Rojek, 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, 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 and Dilcia Aparicio.**

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



Fr. Robert blessing our new Chief of Police, Tammany Brooks, at the end of the July 2nd Liturgy.