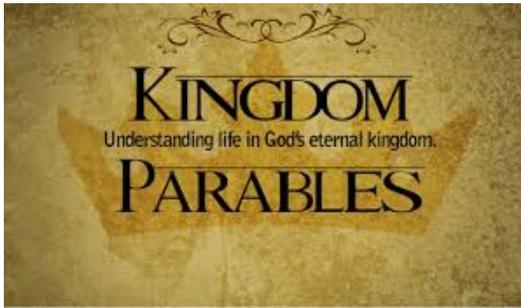


**For The Bulletin Of
July 30, 2017**



**THE 17TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

How many of us wouldn't consider the greatest delight in life to be winning the lottery? Or having our salary unexpectedly doubled? Or having a sugar daddy? Or having a stranger pay off our credit cards? Or hitting the jackpot in Las Vegas? Really? Would this be the greatest thing that could happen to us? In today's gospel Jesus tells us that "the kingdom of heaven is like" a treasure found, a pearl of great value, a catch of fish "of every kind." Really? Let's look deeper.

What "the kingdom of heaven is like" is not just a treasure, pearl, or fish net, not some inanimate object located in some physical place, even if these would enhance our net worth greatly. No, what the "kingdom of heaven" is really like is the action-response of a person who finds a treasure, a merchant who buys a prized pearl, or a fisherman who sorts the fish he catches. In all three of these gospel metaphors, the persons mentioned are committing themselves in an action to an action-response. The "kingdom of heaven" is present in searching for, sacrificing for, and sorting

for our greatest Treasure – God's very Life. We must "sell" all that we are – empty ourselves – so the Life God gives us freely and lavishly is ours forever.

The "kingdom of heaven" is visible in our seeking God above everyone and everything else, in our sacrificing ourselves and whatever we have so that others can have what they need to live fruitful and holy lives, in our sorting out who we are and how we are in relation to God and others. The treasure we go out to seek isn't some thing in some place; it is nothing less than the very Presence and Life of God that is breaking in upon us now but which is only fully realized in the future. Now here is where the surprise of the gospel comes in: the kingdom of heaven isn't some object or realm that we can identify physically; instead it is the gift of divine Presence and Life God gives us. God's divine Presence and Life given to us is a free, unexpected, and invaluable gift. It far surpasses any treasure, pearl, or great catch. It far surpasses anything we can imagine. It far surpasses even who we think we are. The "kingdom of heaven" is the gift of God's very Self to us that raises us up to a share in divine joy, worth, and righteousness.

Isn't it a beautiful thing that God even asks us what we want: "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." This shows how much God cares for us. It confirms that God chooses to be involved in the affairs of humankind. It reveals God's abiding Presence to us. This is the kingdom of heaven: God's Presence and Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

This “treasure” does have its cost: we must actively search for it, recognize it when we find it, and sort out all the distractions that keep us from recognizing the treasure. In the gospel the seekers go out to obvious places to find the treasure. For us our discovery of the “kingdom of heaven” is most often in our everyday circumstances when we experience overwhelmingly the in-breaking of God’s Presence. This may be something so simple as the smile of a person’s grateful thanks or the sense of rightness that comes with faithfulness to daily prayer. It may be something more challenging as admitting that we’ve hurt another. It may be demanding such as committing time to help those in need. The “kingdom of heaven” demands our all – and nothing less.

The gospels of last Sunday and today continue to challenge our discipleship. How far am I willing to go to answer Jesus’ call to me personally?

- When I reflect on my choices and actions in daily living, I learn my treasure is...
- To live in the “kingdom of heaven,” I am willing to give my all to...
- For me, the “kingdom of heaven” is like...

About Liturgy: Liturgy As Great Treasure

It is true that we experience God’s Presence in the many circumstances of our daily lives. But surely one of the most sublime ways we experience God’s Presence is in the very celebration of liturgy. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy tells us that in liturgy Christ is present in His word, in the Presider, in

the assembly, and in the Eucharistic bread and wine. Thus liturgy itself is a great treasure trove of God’s Presence. This suggests both a caution and challenge for us in celebrating liturgy.

The caution that we must always keep in mind is that liturgy first and foremost is our entry into the dying and rising of Christ and in that very act of surrender of self we give God praise and thanks. There is sometimes a tendency in liturgy to celebrate in a way that please us and, thus, subtly turn liturgy toward ourselves rather than toward God. When we do this we run a risk of misunderstanding God’s Presence to us.

The challenge is that we must surrender to God’s action during the liturgy so that we see the many ways God is present in the celebration. It is too easy to let our minds wander or be distracted by restlessness around us or the things we must do when we get home. Liturgy asks of us a single-minded presence to God so that we can experience God’s loving and abiding Presence to us. This is liturgy’s great treasure that we celebrate God’s Presence to us and among us.



Our second Social Justice Workshop focusing on “Difficult Racial Conversations” takes place today immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. A light lunch will be served and the workshop will follow.

Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal

Every year, all of our parishes in the Diocese of Oakland participate in the Missionary Cooperative Plan Weekend Appeal which is held during the summer months. Each parish is assigned one visiting missionary from a mission society, religious congregation, mission diocese, or a lay missionary organization so they can share with the parish community their stories of their mission activities and invite us to participate with our prayers and our financial support. Donations directly assist missionaries in efforts to share the faith in various countries around the world. All funds collected, less administrative costs, are pooled and dispersed in equal shares to participating missions.

Next weekend, August 5th and 6th, Sr. Carol Lawrence will be with us to speak on behalf of her Order. Envelopes will be available in the pews in which you may make your contribution to support our Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Plan. Sister is the sister of Fr. David Lawrence, SJ, Vicar at St. Bonaventure Parish in Concord/Clayton. I know you will give her a very warm welcome to our parish.

Stand Down On The Delta

Next weekend, August 11th through the 14th, is the Second Stand Down on the Delta for Homeless and Veterans at Risk to be held at our Contra Costa County Fairgrounds. Our Knights of Columbus are participating by providing meals during those days as well as myself who will serve as one of the many Chaplains who will be available. I will also be celebrating Eucharist for them on Saturday, August 12th. Thank you to all those who have so generously

donated toiletries, t-shirts, and socks. This weekend and Monday through Wednesday are the last days for you to bring those items to the boxes in the narthex which will then be taken to the fairgrounds by Thursday. Please keep this event in your prayers as we reach out to serve and minister to our homeless and at risk Veterans.

Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola – Cathedral of Christ the Light

Bishop Barber cordially invites all the Faithful of the Diocese to join him to celebrate the Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. A solemn Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Monday, July 31st at 5:00 p.m. The guest homilist is Fr. Michael Czerny, SJ, Secretary of the Migrants and Refugees Office of the Vatican.



French Boys Choir Conquers Our Hearts

Last Sunday evening, our parish warmly and enthusiastically welcomed the **French Boys Choir** to St. Ignatius of Antioch. The performance by these young men under the direction of **Jerome Cupelli** and accompanied by **Helene Martin** on our **Rodger's 958 Trillium Masterpiece Pipe/Digital Organ** overwhelmed a packed house with their angelic singing. Selections ranged from ***Deck the Halls, Danny Boy, Stabat Mater, Give Us Peace*** and

America the Beautiful, and featured a variety of composers from many different countries including Norway, France, Germany and Italy. A delightful reception followed the performance. The free-will offering and all the proceeds from the CD sales went to support the choir on their 11 week tour of the Southwest.

Thank you to **Father Robert** for supporting this incredible cultural experience unique in the history of St. Ignatius of Antioch and to **Don Pearson, Director of Music, Organist and Artist-in-Residence** for bringing this wonderful choir to our church.

We all know that one of the great attributes of St. Ignatius of Antioch is our commitment to hospitality and this past weekend was no exception. From:

- Parishioners meeting the bus on Saturday evening and matching the choir members to their hosts.
- Parishioners opening their homes to choir members and their chaperones, welcoming them and providing transportation, meals and a place to sleep.
- Parishioners preparing and providing food for the event.
- Parishioners hosting a pre-concert dinner for the choir and a post-concert reception in our parish hall.
- Parishioners providing parking lot security during the concert.

Many parish groups stepped forward and contributed to the overwhelming success of this event including:

- **Pastoral Council** for spearheading the pre-concert dinner and the reception that followed the performance, providing food and hors d'oeuvres and obtaining merchant support for this event.
- **Social Events Committee** for jumping in and providing decorations, food and hors d'oeuvres as well as helping with the very busy and well-attended post-concert reception and assisting with the cleanup afterwards.
- **Parish Office Staff** for working on publicity, coordinating the effort to lineup host families and ensuring that all safe-environment requirements were met.
- **Knights of Columbus** for assisting with logistics, setup before, cleanup after the concert and setting up the parish hall for a large funeral reception scheduled Monday morning.

A special thankyou to **Raley's** and **Lucky** stores for supplying some of the food for the dinner and reception and to **Hannah Nicole Winery** and **Bloomfield Vineyards** for a great selection of their wines.

Second Quarter Financial Report

The second quarter parish financial report is included in this week's bulletin. Please take a few minutes to review this important information. *As always, we are grateful to everyone who does so much with their time, their talent and their treasure to makes St. Ignatius of Antioch the vibrant faith-filled*

community that it is. You might also note that the debt on the Parking Lot is now under \$200,000. Since December 31, 2009, the parish has reduced the Diocesan loan balance by more than 70% with monthly principal payments of at least \$5,000. On June 30, the outstanding loan balance was \$195,000.



...to our faithful parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Carole Miller, Heather Hatteroth, Mency Osborne, Kathy Romeo, Emilia Freking, Jack Goncalves, Steve Rojek, and Rose Salamanca.**

...to our faithful parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall each week: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, 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:

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, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Belen Farin and Dilcia Aparicio.**

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

