

For The Bulletin Of August 20, 2017



From Father Robert

None of us enjoys walking into a situation and being made to feel unwelcome. Perhaps at a social event we join a group of people deep in conversation, only to have all talking stop. Or, we present a new idea to the staff with whom we work and it is immediately cut down and we are ignored. Or a friend invites us along to dinner with mutual friends, and when we arrive there is obviously no place setting for us at the table and no move on the part of the hostess to set one. These situations hurt. If we can, we take leave of the situation as soon as possible. If we cannot remove ourselves from a difficult situation, we try to become as inconspicuous as possible. A corner becomes our friend!

A first glance at today's gospel might lead us to think that the Canaanite woman is a very unwelcome person! The disciples want Jesus to send her away. Jesus says some pretty harsh things.

The Canaanite woman (a foreigner) approaches Jesus with a heartfelt request to heal her daughter. Jesus' reply seems

anything but welcoming! But rather than give up and remove herself from a seemingly unpleasant situation, she is determined to receive healing for her daughter. She does anything but give up! Her heart is steadfastly turned toward reaching one goal: healing for her daughter. She is willing to accept any rebuke, rebuttal, rebuff in order to get what she desires for one she loves. Love conquers any unwelcome.

The Canaanite woman demonstrates the kind of faith needed to be healed by Jesus and to receive God's gift of salvation, the kind of faith that brings us into divine embrace. Her faith was visible in three habits of the heart: awareness that she needed Jesus' healing intervention, persistence against all odds, and concern not only for herself but for her daughter.

Her great faith moved Jesus to have "pity on" her. Anyone who approaches God with this kind of great faith will be given healing and salvation. We too must develop and grow in the habits of the heart that make visible the great faith necessary for our healing and salvation.

Here is the twist of this gospel: a seemingly unwelcome situation gives way to one in which everyone is welcome. Jesus initially declares that His mission is only to "the house of Israel," and consequently, harshly rebuffs the Canaanite woman. Then a change occurs. The encounter between Jesus and the woman reveals the unrestricted welcome of Jesus, the power of great faith, and the universality of salvation for those who believe.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The Canaanite woman's cry to Jesus was that "He have pity on *me*" (not on her daughter, although that is surely implied in the request.) Her love for her daughter and her great desire that she be healed could not be separated from herself – she and her daughter were one in the need for healing and life. Her daughter was welcomed into her heart in love, and this was the source of her great faith and persistence. This gives us an insight into our inclusivity and ministry: we are called to be so "at one" with others that their plight is our own plight. Ministry is more than *doing* for another; it implies an empathy with another that discloses the unity we share as members of the Body of Christ. One dimension of living the Gospel is that we work to increase our unity with one another, which in turn draws us to reach out to others in mercy and compassion, welcome and inclusivity.

Our parish is known for its warmth, welcome, hospitality, and inclusivity, that we are truly a "House of Prayer for all people." Do we truly model Jesus' welcome of everyone who passes through our doors?

- What I could learn from the Canaanite woman when I am faced with resistance or rebuff is...
- I need to ask God for salvation when...I experience salvation right now in my life when...
- The habits of the heart I am being called to develop as visible expressions of my faith are...

About Liturgy: The Second Reading and Revelation to the Gentiles

During Ordinary Time the Second Reading for Sundays and solemnities follows their own order, with semi-continuous readings from New Testament apostolic letters. This Sunday is one of the Sundays when by coincidence the second reading not only fits the gospel, first reading, and responsorial psalm but actually offers an interpretive insight.

These readings must be understood in the cultural context of Jesus and His time: the Jewish nation understood the Messiah as One Who would come to save *them* and by so doing all nations would come to receive salvation *through* God's mighty deeds for Israel. This Sunday's gospel and Paul's mission to the Gentiles underscore the radically different and challenging understanding of the Messiah Jesus brings – salvation is for all.



The Floral Arrangement before the Altar today is placed to The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of **Dan O'Connor** from the **O'Connor-Nelms-Barnes** Family.

Fall Staff Planning Day

This coming Wednesday, August 23rd, the Pastoral Staff will meet for its Fall Staff Planning Day. It is an opportunity for us to be together in prayer, reflection,

and discerning the direction in which the Holy Spirit is guiding us to lead the parish for the pastoral year ahead, 2017-2018. Please keep us in your prayers.



An informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 29th, 7:00 p.m., in the church for all those going with us to Norway in 2018. **Linda Grelli, from Black Diamond Travel**, who has arranged all the details of the trip, will be with us to answer any questions. Please mark the date on your calendars and plan to attend.



...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Heather Hatteroth, Carole Miller, Cathy Romeo, Mency Osborne, and Jack Goncalves.**
...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve**

Rojek, 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, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez 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, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin 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.**

Tragic – Charlottesville, Virginia
August 12, 2017

The Interfaith Peace Project expresses its sorrow and outrage at the recent events of racial hatred and bigotry that have erupted in Charlottesville, VA. Our prayers and concerns are with the injured and our deepest sympathy to the families of those who have died. The attack on peaceful counter-demonstrators was no less than an act of terror against the basic civil rights of all

citizens of our Nation. White Nationalism has no legitimate claim in our civil society. We stand with the Interfaith Community of Charlottesville who were among those assaulted by the White Nationalists. We applaud our Interfaith sisters and brothers who not only stood up against the hate groups that invaded Charlottesville but also stood up for the equality and dignity of all our citizens. We stand in solidarity with governmental officials who have decided the time has come to remove the symbols of racism, hatred and bigotry from the public squares of America.

We have warned for months that divisive and hostile language leads to and fosters hatred, intolerance and violence. Our political rhetoric must be salted with the demands of justice. We reject the idea that there are "sides" when it comes to racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance and hatred. The time has come once again for us as an Interfaith Community to uncompromisingly witness to the rights of all people to live in peace and security.

We call upon all people of good will to engage in and support programs that address the racism that still infects our society and culture. We must understand what motivates hatred as we seek to confront such movements as White Nationalists. Former President Barack Obama in his response quoted Nelson Mandela:

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Racism is America's "original sin" and the time has come upon us once again to address this issue with the seriousness of legislation that ensures the voting rights and freedom of all our citizens to live with a sense of self-respect and dignity. Our religious and cultural leaders must take the lead in demanding our governmental leaders live up to their obligations to pass legislation that encourages every sector of our society to confront the issues of prejudice, racism, segregation, and intolerance.

Peacefully,
Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.

***Justice Corner – Charlottesville
by Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate***

The reports and photos from Charlottesville, VA are deeply disturbing. If anyone needed any proof that racist ideas are alive and well in our country, this was it! In the words of Heather Heyer, the paralegal that was killed by a truck that drove into the demonstrators on Saturday, "If you are not outraged, you are not paying attention." As Catholics who follow the Gospel we have to agree with Cardinal Cupich who said, "When it comes to racism, there is only one side: to stand against it."

Still the pictures of the white men with rods beating the prone black school teacher haunts us and seeps into our souls. How do we heal such hatred? Healing take time, reflection and grace. The email from the Franciscan Action Network began by asking forgiveness for all the times we have not stood up in the presence of racist statements. That is a good start to the healing. We cannot stand by and do nothing like the Charlottesville police did when the fights began. We must decide before

hand what action we will take to combat hatred.

If you combine all the categories of non-white folks in California, that's 58%. When a large percentage of the populace is saying, "It could have been me," there is a heightened sense of unsafety.

As a parish we began to address this with the two workshops on Hate Speech and Difficult Racial Conversations. Now is the time to initiate some of those conversations. Talk about this event with your children and grandchildren. Find out from them the stories of hateful behavior that occur at schools, parties and other events. Discuss possible ways to respond. Do not let Charlottesville be far away. "That's not Antioch," we are tempted to say. But, as we learned in the workshops, we all exist with these racial ideas that have been present since the beginning of our country.

When Jesus was faced with his own experience of rejection and hatred he prayed. He accepted suffering. He was beaten and crucified. But he did not return the hatred. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." He also condemned those who set up systems that demean people and cause suffering. He spoke truth to power. We have to do the same.

Prayer must be part of this effort. Try praying 1Cor. 13 for starters. "Love is patient, Love is kind...Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Spend some time praying this scripture this week. We must combat hate speech with different words. We must be teachers of love for all people. When events like this happen it is an opportunity to pray, reflect and take action. Do something of

love this week so Antioch will not end up like Charlottesville.

Report On The Stand Down On The Delta – from Bill Barbanica

I first want to thank and congratulate my brother Knights that supported the Stand Down project this past Saturday. **Jack Goncalves** did an excellent job in being the main contact for our council and for being the chairperson. I also want to thank **Cory McConnell and daughter Megan** for their hard work and participation. The St. Ignatius of Antioch council can be extremely proud of their involvement this year; out of thirty work slots that had to be filled, council 12587 filled ten of them. Not bad folks, not bad at all, thank you.

From a strictly numbers perspective: We fed 400 individuals, served 500 meals, cooked 200 lbs. of Tri-tip, 40 lbs. of chicken, 30 lbs. of instant mashed potatoes, 6 gallons of gravy, 20 ten pound cans of green beans, 144 heads of lettuce and over 500 cups of sherbet.

Putting the numbers aside, the meal was well received by the veterans. I think they were able to experience something they may not always have access to. Simple things such as an appetizer while they waited in line was a huge hit.

Without your help, none of this would be possible. It takes a team to pull off an event of this magnitude. I appreciate all the Knights, wives, and family that participated. It is heartwarming to see various councils come together for a good cause. If someone should ask what you did this weekend, make sure to brag about what you did last weekend.

I spoke to J.R., who runs the Stand Down and he not only thanked us, he said we exceeded expectations based on

the meal we did for the Stand Down in 2015. We have been asked to return in 2019, and we have already been inked in for the Saturday's dinner. God willing I hope to see you all there in two years.

Thank you as well to all our parishioners who donated the toiletries, t-shirts, socks, etc. and to Our Lady of Fatima Prayer Group who did such an outstanding job serving lunch. You ALL made it a great success!

***Stand for Christ –
from Estrella Rusk***

A few months back Peter wrote about the burgeoning Fatima Prayer Group that could no longer be contained within the walls of private homes and how they asked for and secured permission to use the church building on the first Saturday of each month. When a group asks for something, especially a “new” group, there is a certain amount of trepidation as to whether the group will benefit the Church and local community; that is to say be “givers” or if they are only looking for what they can get, “takers.” Rest assured the Fatima Prayer Group (FPG) is loaded with “givers!” Just last week the FPG was deeply involved with the Stand Down on the Delta event. Members of the group who volunteered to spend their time and energies at the Stand Down were Estrella Rusk, Marilou Mendiola, Karen Oliver, Sofie Zimmerman, and Bob Goncalves.

To get a better picture of the immensity of the workload they took on, let's start by saying Stand Down on the Delta was a 4-day, 3-night event in which veterans were provided with full medical, dental, and podiatry treatments. Also available were chaplain services, legal and mental health counseling, employment opportunities and other community

services. During the event veterans were also provided with clothing, meals, showers, sleeping tents, and a safe place to “stand down” for the duration. The FPG helped to serve meals for two days for over 500 people. Those meals were prepared and cooked by several service organizations such as the VFW, Lyons Club, and various Knights of Columbus councils. Some of the FPG members were able to glean sad stories that were voluntarily given by some of the vets. Some had been stationed at the naval base at Subic Bay and had to return to the States when the base closed. At the time, they weren't able to bring their families back with them, and now they are in no position to send for them.

There is one other volunteer group that mustn't escape our attention. They are those who voluntarily donated individual sized toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, deodorants, packages of clean new socks, underwear, and other personal essentials needed for survival at the conclusion of the Stand Down. That group is you! Every one of you who placed even the smallest of items in the narthex collection area are part of the volunteers. When these items were passed out, you were there. When an empty stomach stop rumbling, you were there. When the dread of another cold night vanished with the sight of new socks and clothes, you were there. When Jesus tells you how you gave him all these things you may wonder about it until He lets you remember what you gave and how you volunteered for Stand Down. You did it for the least, you did it for him. The Delta Veterans Group thanks you all for your support. The FPG, with their devotion to Mary has lead them to be the living image of her son Jesus.