

**For The Bulletin of
May 6, 2018**

love
each other
as I have
loved you.
John 15:12

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

From Father Robert

When we are young we learn a list of “dos’ and “don’ts.” Don’t cross the street without looking both ways. Do show respect for your elders. Don’t misbehave. Do treat people the way you would like to be treated. Lend a hand in cleaning the dishes after a meal. The list is seemingly endless. Some grade-school children learn the list well and follow all the rules. And some of these might even become a little self-righteous with the way they follow the rules in the midst of many others who do not. There is a comfort that can come from following the rules, doing what is expected, keeping the list. But there also comes a time when we grow out of childhood, internalize the purpose of the rules, and live as adults.

Even the Old Testament had a list, which today we refer to as the Ten Commandments. Honor your father and

mother. Do not covet another’s belongings. Here again, learning the list and following it is rather easy and straight forward. It’s literally a checklist as to how to be good and honorable in God’s sight. And too often we encounter (or have become ourselves) those who are a bit smug in the way they keep the rules and follow the list, much like proud grade-school children who find comfort and validation in mere obedience.

But Jesus gives us a command in today’s gospel that supersedes all others. It is simply this: “love one another.” Of course, with a command like this, it can be seductive to return to a checklist! How much easier would it be to maintain a checklist, such as, going to church, celebrating the sacraments, fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But the command issued by Jesus is much more difficult. A command to love knows no bounds, knows no checklist. It can be much easier to simply to “love.” By this command, Jesus invites us to an adult spirituality, no longer satisfied by keeping a list. We are not children who need to be told to help with cleaning up after dinner. We do this naturally out of love. And we likely do much more.

There is no box to check for “love.” Love does not count the cost or put a limit on what price is too high. Love can always do more. Love is based on a personal relationship with another that is not transactional but self-giving. As Jesus says in the gospel, His love for His friends reaches the point of laying down His own life for them. There is no boundary to what love calls us to do. And for that reason, we might refer a list of dos and don’ts. But that is not what

we receive from Jesus. We receive from Him a command simple but demanding: “Love one another.”



Living The Paschal Mystery

The Christian Life, modeled on Jesus, is about a freedom to love to the point of laying down one’s life for the other. A relationship with Jesus necessarily involves a relationship with His friends. And these friends are called to love not only Jesus and the Father, but, perhaps more importantly, one another. How much simpler the spiritual life would be if we only had to focus on loving Jesus, or loving God. But to be a friend of Jesus means we must love His other friends as well. This kind of love is not simply a checklist of good deeds, but a dying to self that puts the other first. This love is self-sacrificial and demands we put our own wants, needs, and desires aside to serve and love the other. But, some might respond, others have so many needs there is no way we can meet them all. We would die trying. “Precisely,” is the answer one might expect. The Christian life is one that demands a kind of heroism of daily self-sacrifice, daily dying to one’s self. This is the paschal mystery given to us by

Jesus Himself. For when we give ourselves to the point of no return, God is there to raise us up to new life.

The Easter Season is rapidly drawing to a conclusion. What difference has this Easter Season made in your life? Have you experienced the resurrection in a new or different way? Has new life come to you?

- What does it mean to be a “friend” of God, as opposed to simply believing in the existence of God?
- Who is your best friend, and what makes him/her so? Has that friendship ever been tested?
- How have your ideals and beliefs about love changed throughout your life?
- How do we know that God loves us?
- How has Christ “chosen” us – and for what?



Just as
I have
loved you,
you also
should **love**
one another.

John 13.34

About Liturgy: Love Is More Than A Good Feeling

Today’s gospel message seems pretty simple: “love one another.” The challenge is, however, what Christ adds to that command: “Love one another as

I have loved you.” It’s the “as I have loved you” part that’s tricky because look at how Jesus loved us: even unto death. Loving one another that way is much more difficult. For the majority of us, following Christ’s command will not call us to actual martyrdom. However, we are all called to show this sacrificial kind of love. We see what this love looks like in the church’s description in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults of how catechumens learn to live as Christians by learning to live in community:

“As they become familiar with the Christian way of life and are helped by the example and support of sponsors, godparents, and the entire Christian community, the catechumens learn to...practice love of neighbor, even at the cost of self-renunciation. Thus formed “...they pass from the old to a new nature made perfect in Christ. Since this transition brings with it a progressive change of outlook and conduct, it should become manifest by means of its social consequences...Since the Lord in Whom they believe is a sign of contradiction, the newly-converted often experience divisions and separations, but they also taste the joy that God gives without measure.”

Love one another is much more than simply a feel-good moment. Just ask any married couple, parent, or person living in community! In order to love one another, we must, each day, give up our own wants and needs; sometimes we have to sacrifice our own comfort; many times we need to die to our own point of view and deeply held preconceptions if we want to love others as Jesus loved us to the cross.

Every Sunday, we have another opportunity to practice this kinds of love. In the assembly, we are called to love especially those we do not know, those whose faith may be tepid or merely cultural, those who don’t look like us, speak like us, vote like us, or even pray like us. We exercise this kind of love in many ways. Greeting those around us and making room for others in our pews is one way. Speaking intentionally and looking one another in the eye at the sign of peace is another. Opening our hearts and our mouths to try and sing and pray in our neighbor’s language and style of music, even if it is unfamiliar to us, is yet another. If we can learn to love those who worship with us, we will have a greater chance at showing that sacrificial love to those most in need in the world.



Thank You Note from the Garden Ministry

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the Garden Ministry tables in the Gathering Plaza last weekend. More than \$450 was raised and donated directly to the parish to help offset the garden irrigation costs. The produce from the

garden supplements the canned goods donated weekly to St. Vincent de Paul. The following folks donated plants for the sale: **Bill Stuhreyer, Catherine Vidaurri, Carole Miller, Rhoda Herrera, Joe Fanfa and Brian McCoy.** If you would like to get involved with this ministry, watch for work party announcements in the bulletin.



A Personal Thank You

I want to thank all those who remembered me this past week for both my birthday and anniversary of ordination. Your cards, personal notes of gratitude, appreciation, and affirmation, your gifts of flowers, contributions to the Knights of Columbus Annuity, Gift Cards, wine, books, continued promise of prayers, and money are appreciated more than words can convey. Every day I thank God that I have been called to serve our parish as pastor and never take for granted the privilege of serving as your shepherd. You are what makes being a servant of the gospel worthwhile. May God continue to bless all our efforts to build His kingdom here and to unite us in that love of which He speaks in today's gospel. Again, heart-felt thanks for all your gifts and good wishes.



Congratulations to the parents and families of the following children who were baptized last Saturday morning: **Ariella Antonia Archuleta, Audrey Claire Castro, Averie Rae Perez, Sloane Giada and Nadia Isabelle Sanchez.**



Thank you to all our wonderful parishioner volunteers who make such a difference each week by offering themselves, their Time and Talent: ...Those who clean and prepare the church for the weekend: **Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, Emilia Freking, Mency Osborne, Jun Bajek, and Steve Rojek.**

...Those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Mary Anne Douville and Faultless Cleaners** for all the dry cleaning, sewing and miscellaneous other tasks that are completed by her for the parish.

...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:

Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Sharon Cissell, Yvette Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, and Kathy Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Jose Perez.** And, a thank you to **Steve and Alex Pollard** who had Security duty during the YLI Pasta Dinner.

From Alicia Perez

Hello fellow St. Ignatius of Antioch team members. Very happy to report that we did one great, and wonderful job at our Sunday Bunco event!

We made \$480 in ticket sales (32 tickets sold) \$63 dollars in Luminary bag donations, \$265 in raffle ticket sales and \$110 in donations.

Our total fundraising amount was \$918. Our total will be going in as soon as I receive a check and all who helped in one way or another with the Bunco event will have \$100 donated in their name to relay so you can earn your shirt.

Here are the helpers:

Maryann Peddicord; Don Benson; June Stuhldreier, Kathleen Clark; Pat Dunleavy; Pam Confetti; Rich Confetti, Caitlin Peddicord; Estrella Rusk and Brian and Vicki McCoy.

Other helpers who have not joined our team on-line but were super in volunteering for the event:

Marla and Bob Plurkowski; Pat Kramer; Carol Miller; Frances and Steve Rojek.

There is one more fundraising opportunity to earn a Relay shirt; it is our Pasta Dinner that will be held on Saturday, May 26th. Yes I know it is memorial weekend, but that was the only time open. **Rich Confetti** has graciously agreed to make our pasta this year and **Vicki and Brian McCoy** will be making the salad and donating the dessert.

We will need volunteers to help with the purchase of French bread and appetizers (we have some jalapeno poppers and some calamari rings in the freezer).

We also will need raffle prizes.

Here is the breakdown of help needed for the pasta dinner:

- Ticket takers at the door
- Servers for the appetizers
- Raffles prizes
- Raffles ticket sales persons
- Wine and beer bartenders

If you have not joined because you will not be here for the Relay Event, not to worry, you do not have to be present on Relay Day in order to be a team member. You also do not have to be a team member to be present on Relay Day!

I want to thank you all for all you have done to support the American Cancer Society, There is not a one of us who has not been touched by someone in our lives who has been affected by cancer.

Perhaps not in my lifetime, but I WANT TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO BE REMEMBERED AS SOMEONE WHO HELPED IN GETTING CANCERS ERADICATED!!

Please let me know if I have forgotten anyone.

May God continue to bless you all,
Alicia Perez



Pentecost – May 20th

The Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season comes to a conclusion on May 20th with the Feast of Pentecost. Please be sure to wear RED that day to add to the festivity of the liturgies and to celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us. Many thanks!



New Clergy Announced For Holy Rosary

Two weeks ago The Bishop was present at Holy Rosary to thank the Dominicans for their service of 154 years and to announce the new clergy team who will come to the parish as of July 1st. Many of you will remember **Fr. Ramiro Flores** who was here as Vicar 20 years ago and who has served as Pastor of St. Mark's, Richmond, for the last twelve years. He has been appointed the new Pastor and the new Vicar is **Fr. Jimmy Macalinao** who will be ordained at the end of this month. We welcome them to our Delta Deanery and wish them many blessings as they take

up the role of shepherds for our sisters and brothers at Holy Rosary.

We also are grateful for the Dominicans, especially Fr. Vicente, Fr. Roberto and Fr. Bart who have served Antioch so faithfully and who will move on to new assignments in Dominican Ministry throughout the western region of the Dominican Order.

