

**For The Bulletin Of
July 15, 2018**



**THE 15TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

“Discipleship” is a word tossed out quite often in Christian circles. The word “disciple” connotes follower, and being a follower is not something that is praised in our modern culture, which puts a premium on leadership, executives, and “alpha” types. For a Christian there is only one “alpha,” who is Jesus. No disciple of Jesus ever takes the place of the Master. The disciples are always just that, disciples, followers.

Even though the disciples will never achieve the rank of Master, in the Gospel of Mark today Jesus gives the Twelve authority. He sends them on mission in six groups of two. The very word mission means “to be sent.” This will be the model for Christian evangelization. They travel light, without bread, bag, or money. They rely solely upon the kindness and generosity of those they meet. They are to remain in one house until they leave, not “trading up” as it were the longer they stayed. Their

preaching is basically that of John the Baptist and the early days of Jesus Himself, “Repent.”

In their preaching the disciples also exercised their authority over evil, over the demons, over sickness, and over the unclean spirits. The authority that Jesus shared with His disciples for this mission meant that they too, like Him, were agents of inclusion. They brought those from the margins into a relationship of wholeness. Like Him, their deeds were coupled with preaching. The demand for repentance was paramount; and we can surmise that the demand was not received well by all, as Jesus instructions for “shaking the dust off your feet” indicate.

Not all disciples were chosen for this mission, but only the Twelve. The mission is to go out preaching and performing works of mercy. This probably doesn’t sound much like parish plans today for the “new evangelization.” But this is the “mission of the Twelve” and we might find something worthy of emulation here.

Living The Paschal Mystery

How important it is for us to have a friend, a life partner, a spouse? A friend can be there to urge us on when the going is tough, to celebrate our victories and accomplishments with us. A friend is someone in whom we can take joy by celebrating their well-being. And when a friend suffers, we too suffer. A friendship is a gift of God.

Jesus too recognizes how important it is to have a partner. He sends the Twelve out two-by-two. These disciples are not lone wolves; they are not renegade rangers. They travel with one another

for mutual support, which will likely form a bond of friendship if it were not there already.

Being called to be in a relationship with Jesus is to be also in a relationship with other disciples. None of us is on this path alone, and thank God for that. The Christian life can never be a “Jesus and me” relationship. It always, and by necessity, involves other Christians, if not other people altogether.

Even the Twelve, chose by name to be with Jesus in a more intimate relationship with Him and one another, are not sole actors. They travel together two-by-two.

Who are your partners in faith? Who travels with you “two-by-two?” This might be a good day to thank God and thank your partner(s).

How does the reality that Jesus has chosen you to be one of His disciples/His followers strike you?

- Have you known prophets whose lives proclaimed the love of God, who followed Jesus in their simple generosity and compassion for others?
- Do you identify with Amos’ lack of confidence in his call to be a prophet, with the Twelve’s reluctance to set off on their first mission
- When have you experienced true repentance – when you found the grace and courage to change course in your life?



About Liturgy: Sent Our On Mission

We get the word “Mass” from the concluding words of the Mass in Latin: “Ite, missa est,” literally translated as “Go, it is the dismissal.” In this context, it makes more sense to say we *go from* Mass rather than *we go to* Mass, since Mass is essentially one giant sending forth on mission!

In face, some liturgical theologians would say that the most important part of the Mass and its most important mandate is the dismissal and all its various forms: “Go forth, the Mass is ended”; “go and announce the Gospel of the Lord”; “go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”; “Go in peace.” If, having heard God’s word and shared in the Body and Blood of Christ, we do not live the Gospel and preach it in peace to the world by our words and actions, then we are merely doing ritualism, busywork meaning nothing. John Paul II said in his apostolic letter on the Eucharist: “we cannot delude ourselves: by our mutual love and, in particular, by our concern for those in need we will be recognized as true followers of Jesus. This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged.”

For our Eucharist to be authentic, we are called to go out to the edges of society, what Pope Francis calls the “existential peripheries,” and preach the good news, heal the sick, reconnect those who have been tossed aside by society, and rely only on the authority of Jesus and the goodness of those with whom we break bread, our companions along the way.



Please remember to send in your Tithes and Offerings during the summer months. While we are able to take vacation and get away, the bills, financial obligations, staff salaries, and other financial responsibilities do not. We appreciate how faithful you are in supporting the parish and the building of God’s kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. The summer months, June through August, present the greatest challenge to our budget. Thank you in advance for making sure that your weekly offering/tithe/pledge is sent in.

Parish To Initiate The Sheepdog Program

At one of our Deanery meetings recently, a presentation was made by the Chaplain of the Brentwood Police Department regarding the “Sheepdog Program.” The program consists of off-duty police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and California Highway Patrol officers who are members of the parish and provide security during liturgies in the event of an active shooter. I have asked retired **Pittsburg Police Officer Kirby McNesby** to coordinate the program in our parish and am requesting that all those in Law Enforcement to please contact me with your names and phone numbers to create a list of available officers to participate in the program. Once the list is compiled, we would like to have a meeting of all participants in early August to put the program in place. Thank you for offering yourselves in service to our community in this important way. As of last Sunday, two parishioners have come forward to offer to serve in this new ministry. You may also call the parish office and leave your name and contact information with the receptionist or our Pastoral Secretary, **Maryann Peddicord**.



...to our faithful parishioners who come early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend:

Carole Miller, Heather Hatteroth, Rose Salamanca, Angela Bueno, Alfred Madoshi, Mency Osborne, Fr. Robert, and Lina Rodgers.

...to those who have taken responsibility for cleaning and maintaining the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, Steve Rojek and Fr. Robert.**

...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, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, 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:

Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Sharon Cissell, Harlan 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: **Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Sherry Webb, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

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

