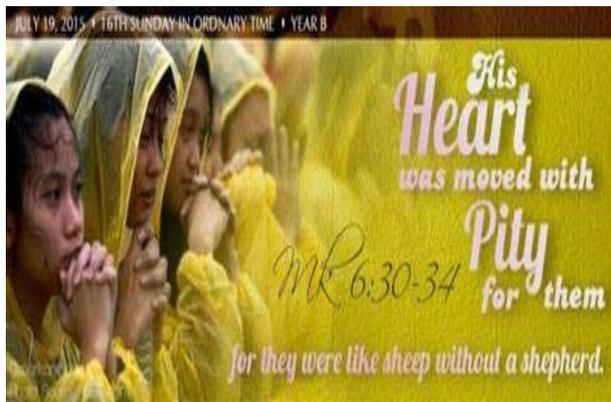


For The Bulletin Of July 22, 2018



THE 16TH SUNDAY IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

The Feeding of the multitudes is one of the few stories that are told in all four gospels. It must have made an impact on the early disciples, and it continues to impact us. The story is about how Jesus fulfills humanity's need for food, but at a much deeper level it's about Jesus fulfilling humanity's most fundamental needs beyond food.

By this time in the gospel narrative Jesus has attracted such attention he can get no "down time." Even when He and His disciples try to get away, the crowd flocks to them, like the ancient paparazzi. Jesus meets them, has compassion on them, and teaches them. All of this is a prelude to the multiplication of the loaves in Mark's gospel, but next week we will hear John's version instead.

But in Mark's gospel, by the end of the day, the disciples display an attitude familiar to us: These people will want something to eat. Is that our problem?

Let's get this crowd on the road so they can fend for themselves. The disciples seem indignant at Jesus' command to feed the crowd. In response, Jesus takes the loaves and fishes and feeds the crowd in language that can certainly be described as Eucharistic. There are four hallmark verbs used in this story that are also used in our Eucharistic prayer: *took* loaves (bread), *blessed* and *broke* them, and *gave* them to the disciples. Jesus satisfies the deepest longings of the human spirit. In providing them food, they ate and were satisfied. And there were leftovers! Jesus is an abundant giver. The cup runneth over!

This story echoes the prophet Elisha from 2 Kings 4:42-44, where Elisha commanded another man to give his twenty loaves and some grain to a hundred men. Not unlike the disciples, this man was incredulous that the few loaves would feed so many. But, in fact, all were fed and there was more left over. The gospel writers certainly had Elisha in mind when telling the story about Jesus. Some scholars believe Jesus Himself had Elisha in mind when feeding the crowd. Perhaps for this reason Jesus was called a prophet by some of His contemporaries, for He

acted as the prophets such as Elisha. Also, it is significant that in the story Jesus sees the crowd as “like sheep without a shepherd” – this line is used frequently in the Old Testament. The image invokes pastoral imagery rooted in Sacred Scripture. Jesus takes the role of shepherd of this flock, giving them sustenance by His teaching and the multiplication of loaves and fishes.

Often it is heard that the miracle presented here is really one where the five thousand shared the food they had already brought to the place. However, such an interpretation misses both the clear allusion to the prophet Elisha story and the plain sense of the gospel story. Jesus provides more than enough to satisfy humanity’s deepest needs both physical and spiritual.



Living The Paschal Mystery

When we are in a relationship with Jesus, we will always have more than enough. Despite any claims to the contrary, Jesus Himself will provide an abundance. Our needs will be met and we will be satisfied. When facing other people’s dire circumstances, it can be a challenge not to respond as the disciples did in this gospel story: Why is this my problem? Let them fend for themselves. But we hear Jesus’ command to the disciples as a command to us: “Give them some food yourselves.” Even though the conditions may seem

overwhelming, as Christians we are to do something. Once we start, God provides more than enough to accomplish the task. Giving in to hopelessness or callousness is not the response expected of a disciple of Jesus.



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and in honor of the 45th Anniversary of Marriage of **Ron and Faye Lucas**. Congratulations and best wishes to you for the best of health and many more years of happiness and the deepening of your love.



On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank our CYO Organization for their generous donation to the parish in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) which was received on July 10th. They have been very supportive of the parish and its financial needs and this gift is a continuing expression of their gratitude and appreciation for our support for them, for the basketball and track programs.

Grand Raffle Kickoff Next Weekend

Our Annual Grand Raffle kicks off next weekend with a presentation at all the liturgies by the Grand Raffle Committee. This raffle, coupled with our other October festivities, helps raise needed funds for operating our parish as well as making a significant contribution to the parish reserve fund. Raffle details and tickets were mailed this past week. Our hope and prayer is that every family will participate by selling at least one book of 10 tickets. With your help, we will more than exceed this year's goal of raising \$50,000. As in past years, there are incentives to return ticket sales proceeds early. Details are in the letter and will be listed in next week's bulletin.



Tomorrow evening, July 23rd, our YLI will hold its Installation of Officers and I wish to congratulate **Beth Enea** as the incoming President. Beth and her husband, Rich, are regular members of our Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Eucharist. Beth, along with Kathy Augusta, volunteers in the office in a variety of roles, including Receptionist, mailing teams, and Friday bulletin stuffer. We wish her all the best as she assumes the position of President for this wonderful women's group that is so supportive of our parish as well as Holy Rosary.

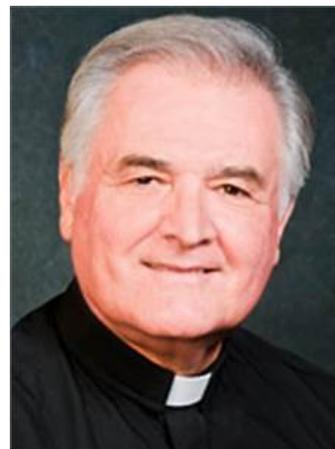


Quo Vadis Retreat

I want to thank **Bill Barbanica, Dave Simpson, Pat McConnell, Walter Schlueter, Steve Rojek, Phillip Rios, Chip Sharpe, and Tony Gumina** for their help in preparing and serving lunch and dinner for the Quo Vadis retreat.

Yours in Christ.

GK Tim Cox



“Father Moses” On Vacation

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, July 23rd, Father “Moses” will be away until August 26th. He will be leading a tour in northern Europe and then taking some well-deserved vacation time in Lucca, Italy with family and friends. We wish him a great time and look forward to his return in late August/early September.



...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who do such a great job of cleaning and preparing the church for the weekend:

Al Cosce, Jun Bajet, Jean Rogers, Carole Miller, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, and Alfred Madoshi.

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week:

Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young and Father Robert.

...I want to thank our Knights of Columbus **Vince Augusta, Mike Bacchus, Bill Barbanica, Jeff Boatright, Jeffrey Boatright, Clem Bushman, Sean Dunleavy, Leo Garcia, Tony Gumina, Pat McConnell, Jose Palomino, Bob Plurkowski, Phillip Rios, Steve Rojek, Walter Schlueter, and Dave Simpson** who helped out this past Tri-Tip Weekend...a pretty successful event. Our Council netted \$775.00 for the weekend.

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who worked on our recent mailer this past Wednesday (thank you so much for your time): **Bernice Campbell, Marguerite Bloomfield, Clem Bushman, Geri Chiechi, Claudia Gumina, Lorraine Lohmeier, Bobbie Ochang, Vangie Parrilla, Carole Miller, Anne Peck and Lori Tapia.**

...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, Rowena Cayaban, Yvette Young, 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, Carole Miller, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Knights of Columbus, Steve Rojek and Tony Gumina.**



The International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC)

Since 2006, I have served as one of the Chaplains for Antioch Police Department and as a part of that commitment, I joined the International Conference of Police Chaplains to receive the requisite training. In the intervening years, I have attended almost every year the Annual Training Seminar which is held in a different part of the United States during the month of July for one week. Last year, we were in Norfolk, Virginia and this year it was held in Lexington, Kentucky from July 9th through July 13th.

The courses which I took during this training week were as follows:

**Compassion Fatigue and Self-Care
The Strong Blue Line**

**Ancient Solutions to Modern Law
Enforcement Challenges**

Relating To the Muslim Community

**Unresolved Emotional and Spiritual
Wounds**

**QPR Suicide Awareness and
Prevention for Law Enforcement
Gatekeepers (2 Part Course)**

Risk Ethics

Moral Injury

Bulletproof Spirit

Crisis Awareness for First Responders

Critical Incident Aftercare

Transitioning From The Street to Home

I receive no financial support from the department to participate in the training so the responsibility is on me to make the training possible. I am fortunate that the Diocese, through the parish, makes some funding possible for annual on-going Clergy Education, which helps alleviate some of the financial responsibility, but it has all been worth it. Through the past 12 years, I have received the Basic Chaplain Certification, then Senior Certification, and two years ago, Master Chaplain Certification. In the near future, I hope to achieve Diplomate Certification, and God willing, the highest level of certification, Fellow. Certification is based on years of service plus on-going education and experience.

I am deeply grateful for your support for me as the Chaplain for our Antioch Police Department as well as for East Contra Costa Fire Prevention District (ECCFPD), the “Unofficial Chaplain” for Contra Costa Fire for the past 18 years, and the East Bay Regional Park District Police and Fire, covering from Black Diamond Mines to Big Break Park in Oakley. Chaplaincy to First Responders is a privilege, an honor, and a blessing. I pray that I may continue to serve our Fire and Police for many years to come.