

**For The Bulletin Of
August 12, 2018**



**THE 19TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

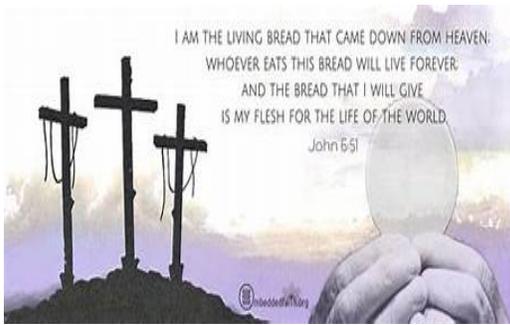
“Ratchet up the tension” is a phrase we hear when discussions are getting heated, when one side or the other refuses to back down, or when someone drives home the argument relentlessly. Often we can shy away from ratcheting up the tension as it can make people uncomfortable. And those who do not shy away from this can be seen as boorish, overzealous, or simply hotheaded. But in today’s gospel, Jesus is not afraid to ratchet up the tension. He is not afraid to deal with any ramifications thereof.

In the gospel from last week the people wanted Jesus to give them a sign like the manna in the desert. In response Jesus claimed that He was the Bread of Life come down from heaven. This week He goes even further. Not surprisingly the crowds are hesitant to believe such a claim. They know His family of origin. Jesus’ father was Joseph. How could Jesus claim to have come down from heaven? Jesus does not back down. He does not say, “Oh you misunderstood. I was speaking metaphorically.” Instead,

He takes it to the next level, as it were. He quotes Isaiah: “They shall all be taught by God.” Both He and the crowds understood the meaning. He was placing Himself on par with God or, rather, even equating Himself with God. This was becoming too much. Jesus, Whose father Joseph they knew, could not with a straight face imply that he had come down from heaven, teaching the people, in effect claiming to fulfill the passage from Isaiah saying they would be taught by God!

Rather than back down, Jesus goes another step further. He states flatly and perhaps boorishly that their ancestors ate manna and *died*. The people wanted Jesus to perform some sign akin to the manna, but in fact those who ate the manna died in any case. What Jesus provides gives eternal life. He Himself is the Bread of Life, come down from heaven. And as a final trump card, He plays the line that ratches it up once again. The bread He gives is His very flesh.

With Jesus’ willingness to go one step further followed by another and yet another, we will not be surprised to learn that many of His followers will abandon Him. What He was teaching and preaching was beyond credibility. This upstart preach from Galilee, Whose father was somebody known in the community, was delusional if he claimed He came down from heaven as true bread, which is His very flesh. Somebody preaching that today would likely be ridiculed and summarily dismissed, which is what will ultimately happen to Jesus.



Living The Paschal Mystery

The Eucharistic theology of the Gospel of John that emerges in this reading will reach a pinnacle next week.

Eucharist, the consumption of the Bread of Life, drinking from the Cup of Blessing, is the way we appropriate for ourselves the Word of God made flesh. The incarnational spirituality of this gospel comes full circle for us who are invited to consume the Word of God, the Bread of life.

When we receive Eucharist we can meditate on the foreshadowing of this spiritual gift by the manna in the desert. That is, the manna that was given to our ancestors in faith prefigured the Bread of Life come down from heaven, which is the Word made flesh. Rather than an esoteric idea divorced from our lived experience, the bread that Jesus gives is His very flesh. Communion with Jesus is not simply a mind-trip, but it is a partaking of His flesh.

This Eucharistic theology is uniquely Johannine and it is delivered not at the Last Supper, but, rather, on the day following the multiplication of the loaves. Jesus satisfied not merely our physical needs but, more importantly, our spiritual needs. Unlike those who consumed manna and died, when we

consume the bread that He gives we will inherit eternal life.

Today’s gospel has raised questions in the minds of believers for many centuries. What questions does it raise for you?

- When have you been nourished by the “bread” of kindness, of forgiveness, of wisdom that another offered you?
- How are we a “Eucharistic” church?
- In what ways can we give “life” to a “lifeless” situation?
- How can a perspective of gratitude change the way we approach problems and difficult relationships?



The Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal

Today we welcome Sister Margaret Bishop of the Franciscan Mission Sisters who is preaching on behalf of the Franciscan Mission Sisters. It is our annual Missionary Cooperative Appeal Sunday.

Envelopes for the collection are in our monthly envelope packet as well as additional envelopes on the credenza. Thank you for your support of the missions.



During the past two weeks, **Rich Confetti and Don Benson** have been repairing and filling cracking of the asphalt in our parking lot at the northwest section. You can see where the repairs have been done as the new asphalt is darker than the previous material. On behalf of all of us, I thank them for the great work they have done in preserving the pavement for the near future until it is time to re-seal and stripe the entire parking lot again. Please feel free to drive to that area of the parking lot to see how much work has been done to preserve the pavement.



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This past Saturday evening, following the Vigil Liturgy, the second CeaseFire Forum and Night Walk Against Violence took place from Restoration Ministries Church on Cavallo Road. It was the first event for Antioch. I am very proud of the representation from our parish which included, in addition to myself: **Steve Rojek, Tim Cox, Vince Augusta, Heather Hatteroth, and Brian and Vicki McCoy**. The Forum began with introductions by Officer

Cassie Wilkerson from Pittsburg PD who has been tasked to work with CeaseFire in Central and Far East Contra Costa County, along with Officer Matt Summers from Antioch PD. We also heard from service providers including HealthRight 360, Rubicon, and powerful talks given by Captain Tony Morefield of Antioch PD and Gabriel Makinano who broke free of the gang lifestyle after his release from prison. The Night Walk brought us to the intersection of E. 18th and Cavallo Road where major crime and drug-dealing takes place. Upon return to the church, a summary of the evening was given by the host pastor as well as other participants who spoke of the power that came from participating. Our next Forum and Night Walk will target the Sycamore Corridor. I will keep you informed and share the date for this next event when possible.



Backpack Outreach

I am deeply grateful to everyone who was able to participate in our 10th annual backpack project in support of St. Peter Martyr School. The teachers and administrators at our adopted Catholic school are dedicated to their students and truly appreciate your support for Catholic education. Last Wednesday, 80 fully loaded backpacks along with a large supply of miscellaneous supplies were delivered to the school.

thank you!

...to our volunteers who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, Mency Osborne, Carole Miller, Heather Hatteroth, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Father 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, Rowena Cayaban, 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: **Carole Miller, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin, 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 Dave Simpson.**

