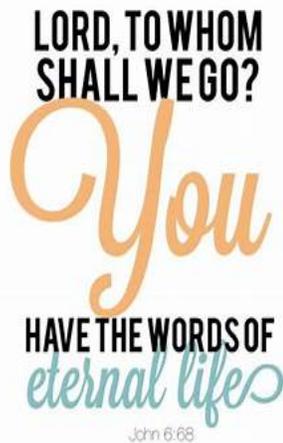


**For The Bulletin Of  
August 26, 2018**



**THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN  
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

***From Father Robert***

Today is the fifth and final Sunday of our scripture passages from the Sixth Chapter of St. John's gospel, the second longest chapter in the New Testament. Even so, we do not read the entire sixth chapter of John. We skipped Jesus' walking on water. The church gives us five Sundays with this chapter precisely because of its profound Eucharistic theology. What began with the multiplication of the loaves ends the following day with nearly all of His disciples abandoning Him and returning to their former way of life precisely because of this "hard" saying, the consumption of Jesus' very flesh and blood.

Jesus then asks the Twelve if they too will leave. We have the impression that if they had chosen to leave, Jesus would simply have started anew. He was not going to change His teaching to attract the crowds. Instead, He would teach what He knew to be true, for His words

were Spirit and Life. Jesus knows that nobody can come to Him, can believe in Him, unless it is granted by the Father. In our words, we say faith is a gift. We cannot come to Jesus unless we are given the gift of faith. Only if that special gift is granted by the Father will one believe. All the arguments, discussions, proofs, demonstrations, blog posts, and talks cannot guarantee faith. It is a gift given not by us, but by God the Father.

How do the Twelve respond when Jesus asks whether they too might leave? Simon Peter answers with a question of his own: "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life... You are the Holy One of God." Thus we have in John's gospel Peter's "confession" that comes as the culmination of this profound chapter in which we have the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus' walking on water, and the bread of life discourse. After witnessing such deeds and speech Simon Peter speaks for all disciples, "to whom shall we go?" Jesus' words are everlasting life. To leave Jesus is in many senses to leave life itself. For Simon Peter, then, there is no other place or person to whom he might go. He is not returning to his former way of life. He has been introduced to something more, eternal life from the Word of God come down from heaven. For the one who has faith, in the face of such a revelation there is no other choice.

***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Peter's response can be our own when faced with the overwhelming mystery of the gift of faith in the One sent from God. Yet, we should be humble with respect to this mystery, for the gift is not give to all, but only to those whom the

Father grants it. In light of this it is good to be patient with those who do not share our faith. And when another does come to faith we can be assured that it is not because of our wondrous evangelization, our dedication to a particular program, or our having memorized specific Scripture verses. God grants faith to those to whom He will.

Even Jesus Himself allowed many of His disciples (not merely the crowds) to return to their former way of life when His teaching seemed too hard. Our faith is not subject to scientific scrutiny after which a demonstrable proof will be accepted by a rational mind. Instead, faith is a gift.

We can be thankful for this gift of faith that leads to eternal life. We can share it with others. But ultimately it is God the Father Who is the Giver. Once granted this gift, we, like the disciples, have nowhere to turn but to Jesus. In light of His challenging teachings, the response of Peter becomes our own. “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

As we come to conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse with today’s liturgies, what insights have these past five weeks brought to your experience and living out of our faith?

- What “sayings” of Jesus do you find especially hard to accept?
- When have you experienced “spirit and life” in your struggle to live the Gospel?
- In what ordinary and simple ways do families “serve the Lord” in the spirit of Joshua in our First Reading?

- In light of Paul’s words to husbands and wives in today’s second reading, how does married life mirror the relationship of Christ and the church?



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of Ferdinand Hoyer by his wife, Josie.

***Expansion Project:***

As previously shared with you, I executed a Services Agreement with our architects, Loving & Campos (LCA). The agreement includes the preparation of the feasibility study. This study is required and must be accepted by the Diocese before the project can proceed. On August 15, I also signed a **Preconstruction Agreement** with **Oliver & Company** of Richmond California. Oliver & Company is well known and well respected in the Diocese. In consultation with LCA and our parish’s Expansion Project Team, Oliver & Company will:

- 1. Provide cost estimating and cost consultation as to design alternatives so the final budget for the project will be within the parish’s budget.**
- 2. Provide final estimating and final contracting alternatives for the parish’s review prior to**

**the execution of any  
construction contract.**

I look forward to sharing the findings of the feasibility study with you in the near future. Likewise, I am truly thankful for the patience you have exhibited. We are moving forward in a very deliberate manner to ensure the ultimate success of this long-delayed project.



Many thanks to the following Brother Knights who came out to cleanup Contra Loma Blvd. last Saturday morning: **Bill Saunders, Dave Simpson, Jose Perez, Jack Goncalves, Charles Frank, Mark Costanza, and Ron Yarolomek, and Grand Knight Tim Cox.**

We thank the following Brother Knights for their help with the Tri-tip event this weekend: **PGK Bill Barbanica, Vince Augusta, Pat McConnell, Jeff Boatright and Jeffery Boatright, Joe Fanfa, Bill Hatteroth, Sean Dunleavy, Jose Palomino, Charles Frank, Walter Schleuter, PGK Dave Simpson, Pablo Villegas, Phillip Rios, Clem Bushman, and Steve Rojek.**

**A NOTE OF**



Dear Father Robert,  
My heart is filled with gratitude for the opportunity of being with you and your parish for the Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal Sunday. Your presence and contagious love is like a magnet drawing the community of St. Ignatius of Antioch together for an exceptional transformation of their lives in Eucharist. Thank you also to **Tom and Annette Pisani** for hosting me and sharing with me their wonderful hospitality and meals. May you continue to be a beacon of light to the Diocese of Oakland. May your life be blessed with great health and deep joy. Gratefully, **Sister Peg Bishop**

*Thank  
You*

...to our volunteer parishioners who continue to arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the sanctuary and parish hall for the weekend: **Alfred Madoshi, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Jean Rogers, Heather Hatteroth, Rose Salamanca, Mency Osborne, and Carole Miller.**

...to our 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.**

...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, Beth Enea, 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 (Lead), Carole Miller, 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.**

