

For The Bulletin Of September 23, 2018



The 25th Sunday In Ordinary Time

From Father Robert

The disciples are examples for us in so many ways, but today their example might not be what we expect. Here not only do they misunderstand Jesus (again) but they are afraid to ask Him any questions. They are arguing amongst themselves. So Jesus turns the table and questions them. He wants them to tell Him what they were arguing about. This almost sounds like a family squabble among the children where the parent has to step in and put a foot down. Perhaps like petulant children called on the carpet, the disciples remain silent. They do not have an answer for Jesus.

Is this the way the disciples really acted? Are these the saints we revere? Are their actions worthy of emulation? The disciples serve as an example for us in that despite their misunderstanding, their arguments, even their petty jealousies about who would be the greatest, they

continued to follow Jesus. Jesus does not expect perfection. The disciples clearly show that! Jesus accepts people for who they are and where they are. He asks that they follow Him.

Jesus then teaches the Twelve about leadership and being counted as the first. The leader is to be the servant. This upends ancient ideas and certainly modern thinking about being “number one.” Power, riches, and authority, both in antiquity and now, are often used to amass more. But for the Christian it is to be different. For those who desire to be first, the greatest, the best, they are to be the last, the least, the servant of all.

Jesus places a child, one who has virtually no power or authority, in their midst. A child cannot return in like manner the kindness shown to it. The relationship with a child is one where we provide for and care for the child without expectation of return. What parent says to a child, “You’ll need to pay me back for everything I spent on you while you were growing up in our home?” We pour out our hearts and our wallets for our children. Christian discipleship is likened to that relationship. Rather than doing political favors for those who can and do repay in kind, we are invited to accept the child and all the self-giving on our part that entails. This, rather than clawing one’s way to the top, is the true marker of Christian love and service.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Discipleship turns our modern value system on its head. Yet we, like the disciples, have difficulty seeing that. We continue to debate popularity, count Twitter followers and Facebook friends, and admire those with power and

authority. But in today's gospel we are reminded to consider those who have little standing in the world.

The parents' love for a child is a true reflection of Christian love and service. The parent does not count the cost of late nights, extra food on the table, additional expenses, or the anxiety that can naturally come with a child. Instead, motivated by love, the parent moves beyond oneself to care for another. We are called by Jesus to behave in like manner to others. We do not treat them as children, but we are to serve without counting the cost, to give without expecting anything in return.

Often both in antiquity and in the modern world relationships are governed by a mutual beneficence or, more easily, favor trading. Laws have been established to prevent the most egregious forms of this behavior, but it happens nonetheless at multiple levels. Though we are in the midst of the world, Christians are to have a different standard. Christians are to be of service. This kind of action may seem out of place. The maxim "Nice guys finish last" has more than a ring of truth to it. But Jesus reminds us today, "if anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." This message is difficult to hear and more difficult to follow. For most of us these are not the values we see lived every day. But by enacting them we bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

How have today's scripture passages challenged you in the living out of your Christianity?

- Do you know of individuals whose humility have led them to

accomplish great things for others?

- What is the most important lesson you have learned from a child? What have children taught you about the gospel values of service, charity, compassion, and justice?
- Have you ever acted against your own interests for the common good? Did you regret it? What positive outcomes resulted?



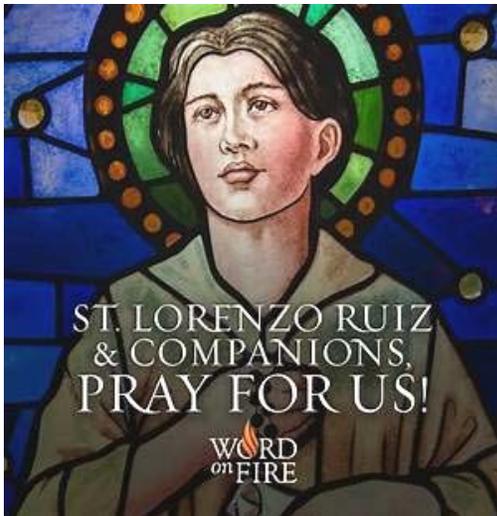
The Floral Arrangement at the foot of the Cross is placed To The Glory of God and In Honor of the 80th Birthday of **Pat Prejza** from her sister, **Cathy Fitzpatrick**.



Our Knights of Columbus Honor First Responders

This coming Thursday, our Knights of Columbus will honor our Firefighters with East Contra Costa Fire, Contra Costa Fire, and our Antioch Police Department as we observe the feasts of St. Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters

and St. Michael the Archangel, Patron Saint of Police Officers. Lunch will be brought to each fire station in Far East County as well as the fire stations in Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch along with our Antioch Police Department. Our Knights have done this each year and on behalf of all of us, I want to thank them for their support and commitment to our First Responders. As the Chaplain for East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and our Antioch Police Department, I am especially grateful for the support from our parish and Knights. Please continue to keep them all in your thoughts and prayers as they seek to protect, defend, and serve all of us from Bay Point to Byron.



The Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz

Next Sunday during our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist we will join our Filipino Community in celebrating the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. The scripture passages will be proclaimed in Tagalog with English translations provided in the worship leaflet, along with members of our Filipino Community participating in all the ministries. The Choir will lead us in the singing of the Hymn to San Lorenzo Ruiz as well as other beautiful

music of the Philippines. A reception for all will follow in the parish hall.

Sock Drive

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported our 5th Annual Sock Drive last weekend. Your donations directly benefit our sisters and brothers living on the streets in a very practical way and reflect a genuine understanding of the Gospel message of love.

Arrangements have been made to deliver your donations to St. Boniface Church in San Francisco to support their work with the Gubbio Project.



Fall Environment

You are invited to join the members of the Art & Environment Committee in creating the environment for Fall this coming Wednesday, September 26th, beginning at 9:15 a.m. We will need many hands to help us remove Summer's Ordinary Time and then install the Fall environment with its cloth panels at the Icons, placing of pumpkins, and preparation of the trees. Coffee and pastries will be available mid-morning and if we haven't finished by midday, lunch will be brought in. This is a wonderful way to work with fellow parishioners, meet new friends, and see how the worship space is transformed

for this very special time of the year. I hope you will join us.

WE CARE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP



OUR COMMUNITY LETS MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

Our next Neighborhood Cleanup takes place on Saturday morning, October 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Under the direction of Antioch PD Volunteers in Police Service, citizens are provided with gloves, garbage bags, and garbage picker-uppers. A different neighborhood around the city is selected each month. I hope to have the flyer attached to my Insert next weekend with all the details or you may go to the Antioch PD website to see the flyer online. I hope you will join me.



...to those who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Al Cosce, Heather Hatteroth, Mency Osborne, Jean Rogers, Carole Miller, and Rose Salamanca.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish

hall each 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, Kathy Augusta, 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, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin, Beth Enea, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta, Dilcia Aparicio, Richard Enea and Sherry Webb.**

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