

**For The Bulletin Of
September 30, 2018**



**THE 26TH SUNDAY IN FALL'S
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

In grade school most of us learned about “tattle tales,” those children who were so eager to impress the teacher or another adult that they “tattled” on the other students. “Joey didn’t do what you asked him to do!” “Susie called me a name!” “George ate all the cookies!” But too often the tattle tales did not receive the response they expected. Often it was, “nobody likes a tattletale.”

In today’s gospel the disciples, in their continuing streak of misunderstanding, come to Jesus with some news. It’s as though they are tattling, “We saw someone doing something in Your name, but he’s not in our group so we stopped him.” Jesus responds with the equivalent of, “no one likes a tattle tale.” He then makes a claim that can be described as “big tent” Christianity, in saying that “whoever is not against us is for us.” The double negative “not against” is significant, and seems to be a rather low bar. If simply not being against is the equivalent of being “for” there seems to be hope!

Yet this rather low-bar admonition is followed immediately by a stern and

disturbing warning: causing a little one to sin is worthy of death. What then follows are a series of prophetic hyperbole intended to make the point that the kingdom of God is worth any price. Lopping off a body part that causes one to sin is better than losing eternal life. The early church recognized these commands concerning self-maiming as hyperbole and did not take them literally. These are warnings to sever any relationship that causes sin. The kingdom of God is the ultimate prize worth any price.

Living The Paschal Mystery

We can be so eager to define who is in and who is outside of the group. There seems to be something in our DNA or evolution that wants to create and protect the tribe, the clan, the group. We have heard it said, “If you’re not with us, you’re against us.” This clear demarcation is intended, among other things, to rally the group, and to warn others against harming the group. But Jesus does not draw the lines to starkly. For Him, “whoever is not against us is for us.” That leaves a rather large group!

For Jesus, the group is expansive, and we should be too. In the United States, not many people are actively against Christians. To be sure, there are parts of the world where being Christian can be a death sentence. But that happens only rarely, if ever, in developed parts of the world.

Rather than look for enemies, and seek to find those who are against us, Jesus tells His disciples essentially that by their actions you shall know them. If someone is not part of the group but is still performing the actions of the

members of the group, that person is with us. The disciples' continuing streak of misunderstanding is met with Jesus' teaching them values contrary to their expectations once again.

The Liturgical Year of 2018 is rapidly coming to an end. We have been reading from the Gospel of Mark, what is considered the Cycle B of our scripture readings and they have begun to focus on what we call "the last things," the end of the world and life as we know it. Some of the images can be frightening but it is always important to read them in context. How have you heard today's readings?

- When have you given received the Gospel "cup of water to drink" in Christ's name?
- How does faith become "elitist?"
- Consider ways in which something that is essentially good can also be used destructively.
- How do "non-teachers" lead others to God?
- When have you experienced the Spirit of God at an unexpected time, from an unexpected source?



The Floral Arrangement today is placed to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of **Ferdinand Hoyer on the First Anniversary of his Death** by his family.



This past Friday evening, a very appreciative audience gathered to hear the members of our Choir perform their Third Annual Cabaret. Once again, the talent of each individual singer, as well as the entire ensemble, was "front and center stage" as Broadway tunes along with Country Western ballads were performed. There was laughter as well as tears as the audience was touched by both text and music. How blessed our parish is to have a choir that is able to perform both sacred as well as secular music under the direction of **Don Pearson**, who accompanied each soloist, duet, or group of singers, and especially the newly-formed "Earth Angel Singers!" Our thanks and gratitude to: **Geri Abaya, Rosemary Anyanwu, Erika Fernandes, Charles Frank, Cynthia Frank, Patricia Kramer, Doreen Manalac, Kirby McNesby, Teri McNesby, Cecille Mirano, Maryann Peddicord, Alicia Perez, Gino Ramos, Paul Riofski, Frances Rojek, Chip Sharpe, Cheryna Wright, and Harlan Young.** Many thanks as well to those who prepared and served the reception that followed the performance: **Lorraine Lohmeier, Nancy Newton, Steve Rojek, Will Avitable and Catherine Vidaurri.** And, of course, our wonderful Parking Lot Security **Don Benson.**



...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Father Robert.**

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

...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:

Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, 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, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies:

Don Benson and Steve Rojek.

...to all those who joined the members of the Art & Environment Committee this past Wednesday to transform the worship environment from Summer's Ordinary Time to the Fall Environment:

Rich Confetti, Theresa Nelms, Don Benson, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Patricia Kramer, Tony and Claudia Gumina, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Nancy DiMaggio, Lorraine Lohmeier, Carole Miller, Dave Rodrigues, Anne Peck, Judi Heckendorn, Erika Fernandes, Bobbie Ocang, Vangie Parrilla, Sr. Celeste Parrilla, Harlan Young, Patricia Britton, Kathleen Maasberg and Jenawati Kwa.



Since 2006, I have served as one of the Chaplains for our Antioch Police Department. As a Police Chaplain, I received training from the International Conference of Police Chaplains, rising to the rank of "Master Chaplain." I participated each year in the "Every 15

Minutes” program to help prevent drunken driving by teenagers; I responded to calls for a Chaplain at the time of a death; I taught in the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Academy to introduce volunteers to the history and practice of law enforcement chaplaincy; I counseled police officers as requested; I attended briefings, offered Invocations and Benedictions, and offered a Ministry of Presence. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve. After a great deal of reflection, thought, and prayer, I have resigned from the department but will continue to serve as the Founding Chaplain for East Contra Costa Fire Protection District as well as the “unofficial” Chaplain for Contra Costa Fire Prevention District, and Chaplain for East Bay Regional Parks Fire and Police. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served the Antioch Police Department and hope that my presence and ministry made a difference and contributed to helping them fulfill their mission. As a parish, we will continue to pray for and support Law Enforcement, especially here in Far East Contra Costa County.



October Is Stewardship Month

Each year we dedicate the month of October to Stewardship and its three themes: Time, Talent, and Treasure. On the first Sunday of the month, the members of our Pastoral Council will address the topic of Time; on the Second weekend of the month, they will address the topic of Talent; and on the Third

Sunday of the month, the topic of Treasure. The Fourth Sunday of the month is Commitment Weekend when every parishioner is invited to come forward to the Altar and place their tithe/donation in the appropriate basket along with their Commitment Form which indicates their level of Commitment regarding Time, Talent, and Treasure in the chest that is placed at the heart of the altar for the coming year. Your commitment becomes a “covenant” between you and the Lord and is your way of demonstrating how you will support the building of God’s kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch over the coming year. It is very important for each one of you to look honestly at all the gifts God has given you and discern what is the best way for you to return a portion of those gifts, your Time, Talent, and Treasure back to God through the parish and its ministries, programs, outreaches, and staffing. The reality is that there is a small, dedicated, committed group of parishioners who are carrying the full “load” of being responsible for the parish in each of those categories. We need YOU to step up, take responsibility, commit to sharing a portion of your Time, your Talent, and your Financial Resources/Treasure to insure the operation of the parish in 2019. Don’t be a “taker” – remember that God loves a cheerful Giver!!! And, God’s generosity will never be outdone. Please add your prayers to mine that this year’s effort will bring an abundant harvest of volunteers as well as everyone doing their fair share to realize an increase in our operating income.



ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

The Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Each year, we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Ignatius of Antioch on the weekend nearest his feast day and in conjunction with our parish festival. This year the celebration falls on the weekend of October 20th and 21st. On Saturday, the 20th, our Gala Dinner will take place, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Pittsburg Yacht Club in Pittsburg and then on Sunday, the 21st, we celebrate his feast day followed by the parish festival. Please remember to wear RED for the liturgies that weekend to add to the atmosphere of celebration. We wear RED because Ignatius of Antioch was martyred and the color RED symbolizes his blood that was shed for Christ and the Gospel.

