

For The Bulletin Of October 7, 2018

Then Jesus
answered:



**“It was because of your
hardness of heart and
stubbornness that
Moses wrote you this**

THE 27TH SUNDAY IN FALL’S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

Jesus’ sayings are hard. Sometimes there are few ways we can explain away the plain meaning of the text. We tend to be familiar with the stories of Jesus that remind us that the law was made for humans, not humans for the law. To illustrate this point we have stories such as Jesus healing on the Sabbath.

But in today’s gospel, rather than offer a flexible interpretation of the Mosaic law concerning divorce, Jesus doubles down. He tells the people that the only reason Moses even permitted divorce was because of human stubbornness. In actuality, Jesus says, in quoting Genesis, “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” He goes even further (thus the doubling down) and makes a startling statement that the man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery. And for parity’s sake, He says that the woman who divorces her husband and marries another commits adultery. In fact, many scholars see in the prohibition against women as well as men that the people before Jesus that day were likely Roman.

Roman women, unlike Jewish women, had the right to divorce their husbands.

In any case, this prohibition was, and remains, extreme. We can see evidence that the early church considered this extreme because Matthew’s gospel (which uses Mark as a source) already amends the prohibition and makes an exception for divorce in cases of unlawful marriage, sometimes erroneously translated as “sexual immorality” (see Matthew 19:9).

But Matthew was not the only New Testament text to relax Jesus’ absolute prohibition on divorce. Paul, too, writing before any gospel was composed, was aware of Jesus’ radical teaching on divorce. He even quotes it before offering an exception (I Corinthians 7:10-16)! Paul basically says that if a Christian has an unbelieving spouse who separates, the Christian person is not bound. Today the church refers to this as the “Pauline Privilege” and it applies in RCIA and other cases.

This passage seem to be of the kind that we have seen before in the Gospel of Mark, where Jesus might say, if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off! Or if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out! (Remember last Sunday’s gospel) The idea that there would be no divorce is a great ideal, but unfortunately it does not match lived experience. The fact that two New Testament authors already created exceptions is clear evidence of that. The early church understood that some of Jesus’ sayings were not to be taken so literally, as difficult as that might seem to us.

As adults we need to approach faith with a certain maturity. Rather than accept at

face value each and every saying in the Bible, or even each and every saying of Jesus (!), we discern the meaning of the text in a community of faith.

Living The Paschal Mystery

In 1980 the American bishops published a document titled “Called and Gifted: The American Catholic Laity.” It was short and was often published as a brochure, but it was nonetheless an important text commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the “*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity.*” The bishops spoke of the four calls of the laity: adulthood, holiness, ministry, and community. Today’s gospel definitely calls us to adulthood, to a mature reading of the gospel text.

The bishops wrote in 1980, “Adulthood implies knowledge, experience and awareness, freedom and responsibility, and mutuality in relationships. It is true, however, that the experience of lay persons ‘as church members’ has not always reflected this understanding of adulthood.” What a remarkable statement from the bishops! So, we read today’s gospel in light of our knowledge and experience of human relationships. We grapple with its meaning, recognizing that Jesus’ sayings are hard. But we never stop following. We never stop being a disciple. We are adults in His church, with freedom, responsibility, and mutuality in relationships.

Given the statistics that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce, including those of Catholics, how do you hear today’s gospel?

- In what ways to wives and husbands “live” the sacrament of marriage?

- How does a covenant relationship differ from a contract relationship?
- Have you ever come to realize a time when you acted out of the “hardness” of your own heart?
- What wisdom have you learned from a child?



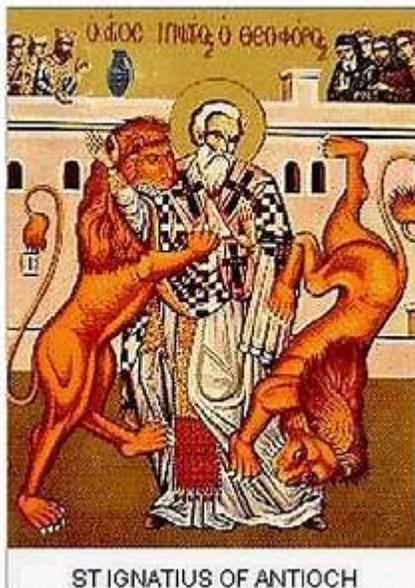
The Floral Arrangements at the foot of the Cross and the Ambo are placed to the Glory of God and In Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Marriage of **David and Melodye Costanza.** Congratulations! And best wishes for many more years of happiness, the deepening of your love, and the best of health. And, In Loving Memory of “**Papa Joe**” **Stralovich** who would have been 85 on October 6th by his daughter, **Annette Romani.**



October Is Stewardship Month

Beginning today and continuing through each Sunday of October, the members of our Pastoral Council will be sharing with us brief witness talks on “Stewardship:

Time, Talent, and Treasure.” Today’s witness focuses on “Time.” The witness talks lead us to the Fourth Sunday of October which is Commitment Sunday, when every parishioner will be invited forward to bring their Commitment Form to the altar to place in the chest that remains at the heart of the Altar throughout the year and which is a constant reminder of the covenant we make with God regarding our use of our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure. Also, on the Fourth Sunday of October, we will have our annual Ministry Faire during which you may sign up to participate in any of our ministries to which you feel called and gifted by God. Representatives from each ministry will be present to respond to your questions as well as to give you more information about how you can participate. Begin **now** to reflect and think about the gifts you have been given by God and how they can be used here at St. Ignatius of Antioch to build His kingdom.



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.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

...to those who arrived very early each Saturday morning to clean the church and parish hall and prepare our facilities for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Heather Hatteroth, Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Jean Rogers, Theresa Chandler.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in 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:

Beth Enea, Kathy Augusta, Melodye Costanza, Sharon Cissell, Alicia Perez, Lorraine Lohmeier, 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), Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta, Beth Enea, 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 Jose Perez.**

