

For The Bulletin Of November 4, 2018



THE 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

How is the Christian life, or life as a Roman Catholic, summed up? What scripture passage, text from the Catechism, or saying from a saint or pope would you use to encapsulate Christianity? The question sounds like a bizarre parlor game at a gathering of theologians! Any answer can be found lacking. Focus on the sacraments and one might counter with liturgy. Affirm the Creed and someone might critique you for excluding Eucharist. Mention Mary and the saints and you could be accused of neglecting Jesus.

Something similar is the setting for the gospel for today. One of the scribes, one of those learned in the law and all things Jewish, came to Jesus with a deceptively simple question. "Which is the first of all the commandments?" How Jesus answers will reveal much about His learning, His presuppositions, any of His biases, or worst of all, His ignorance. Like a parlor game, this question is designed to show off the skill and knowledge of the questioner as much as the one questioned. Whatever answer

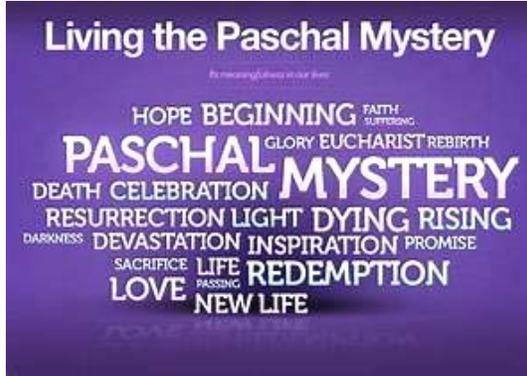
Jesus offers can undoubtedly be critiqued. Will He respond with the first of the Ten Commandments? ...the first commandment issued in the Book of Genesis? Or will Jesus somehow choose one commandment to be the first, in the sense of primary?

Jesus' answer cleverly combines two commandments to be the greatest. "There is no other commandment greater than these." In fact, though each commandment is in the Torah, scholars know of no other prophet or teacher prior to Jesus who had ever combined these two commandments in this way. Thus, modern scholars believe this unique combination stems from the teaching of the historical Jesus. It was he Who combined the commandment to love God with the commandment to love one's neighbor. In this, the law is summed up and is more meaningful than burnt offerings and sacrifices, that is, many of the other prescripts and commandments of the law.

There is nothing for the interlocutor to critique. He affirms and admiringly repeats Jesus' response, for which he is told, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." Jesus so embodies the law that no one else has the courage to ask Him any questions. The theological parlor game is concluded for the day!

But for us Christians, how is the Christian life summed up? By celebrating Eucharist on Sundays and other days of special celebration? By making First Fridays? By observing Lent? Or are those acts more similar to the burnt offerings and sacrifices prescribed by the law? Might there be something more foundational to the Christian life than even doctrines,

creeds, holy days, or Lent? Perhaps Jesus' words are meant for us too. If only we love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.



There is a Texas saying "boil the pot dry." It means when we get down to the gist of the matter, what's left? When we boil away any excess, what remains? Today, Jesus will "boil the pot dry" and let us know that the essence of the Torah is to love God and to love one's neighbor as oneself. The simplicity of this command is shocking to those of us who might prefer external observance demanded by precepts and commandments. In many ways it would be easier to follow a set of "dos and don'ts" rather than to "love God" and "love your neighbor." When we love, there is no instructional booklet. There is no guide as to what to avoid or what precisely to do. In many ways, today's gospel can be summed up in the words of St. Augustine, who said "Love God and do what you will."

As we come closer to the conclusion of this Liturgical Year, the challenge of the gospel becomes more personal and intense.

- How is love an act of "creation?"
- Have you ever been confronted with a situation in which love

demanded more than you were ready to give?

- In what ways is Jesus' vision of the kingdom of God a reality here and now?
- What are the real-life implications of loving God with your whole "heart?" With your whole "soul?" With your whole "mind?" With your whole "strength?" Which of these do you find most challenging?
- What is the most difficult personal need or want to put aside in order to "love your neighbor as yourself?"



This weekend is our Annual Coat Drive facilitated by our Confirmation I & II Classes and our Knights of Columbus. You may place your new or gently used winter coats on the tables provided around the ambulatory of the church. They will be distributed both locally as well as in San Francisco to our sisters and brothers who are affected by the cold weather and who need their warmth. Thank you for your generous and loving participation.



Once again we invite to join us in one of our biggest outreaches each year by participating in our Annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets give-a-way. In today's bulletin you will find the bright orange flyer listing the ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner to which our St. Vincent de Paul Society will add a turkey on the day of the give-a-way, Monday, November 19th. Our friends at Lucky have made it very easy with the wonderful display they have prepared right at the entrance to the store on Contra Loma. You can get each ingredient by walking around the display and picking out what you need to fill your box. It is also wonderful to provide paper plates, napkins, and a festive paper tablecloth. I always include a Thanksgiving Card from us, extending best wishes and holiday greetings to the family who receives the basket I have prepared. **We ask you to bring your completed and decorated basket to any of the liturgies on the weekend of November 17th and 18th, the weekend before Thanksgiving** which is celebrated this year on Thursday, November 22nd.

Last year, there were more than 200 beautiful baskets donated to needy families. Thank you for joining us in this outreach that brings so much joy and happiness to those who are not as fortunate as we. It is also a special blessing to receive all of the baskets

provided by our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr who last year contributed 50 baskets! In this way, we together become the hands and the heart of Jesus embracing those in need. Thank you for what you will do for our sisters and brothers this Thanksgiving.



Thanksgiving Day Liturgy

Each year, one of the most beautiful liturgies celebrated in our church takes place on Thanksgiving Day which this year is Thursday, November 22nd. Eucharist is celebrated at 9:00 a.m. with beautiful music under the direction of our Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in Residence, **Don Pearson, along with the Parish Choir and Cantors.** The Thanksgiving Homily/Reflection will be given by one of our parishioners which has become one of our revered traditions here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. You are also invited to bring the bread and wine for your Thanksgiving Dinner to be blessed. Remember: the very word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving." We have much for which to be grateful and this liturgy is a wonderful opportunity to do just that.



Commitment Weekend and The Ministry Faire

Thank you to all those who came prepared to participate in our Annual Commitment Weekend last weekend. The three previous weekends gave us an opportunity to reflect on the three aspects of Stewardship: Time, Talent, and Treasure and last weekend we came forward in a great procession to place our Commitment Forms into the chest that now rests beneath the Altar. Thank you for what each of you will do to help build the Kingdom of God here at St. Ignatius of Antioch over the next pastoral year. Also, thank you for visiting the tables and the ministry displays in the Gathering Plaza as our Annual Ministry Faire took place. We are grateful to all the ministry representatives and especially to the members of the Pastoral Council and **Reggia Desmond** who organized this year's Faire.



...to those who come very early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and the parish hall for

the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, and Jean Rogers.**
 ...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, 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, Sharon Cissell, 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, Beth Enea, 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, Steve Rojek and Tony Gumina.**