

**For The Bulletin Of  
February 10, 2019**



**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
WINTER'S ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

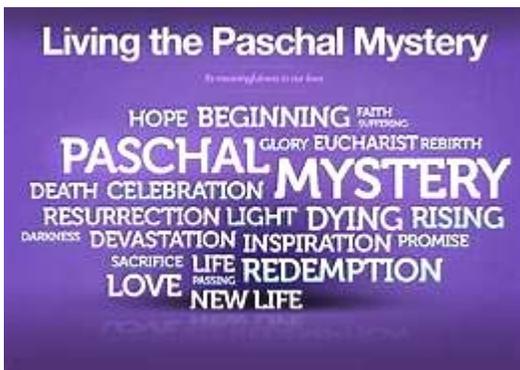
Hometown monuments, markers, and memorials go by different names. For example, people who grew up in one era might recall an earlier name for a stadium or a building. In Chicago, the Sears Tower became the Willis Tower in 2009. Investors bought it several years later and were considering another name change. But many locals still refer to it as the Sears Tower. Many stadiums undergo name changes, such as our own AT&T Park as well, based on naming rights sold to the highest bidding corporation. These names are a reflection of our culture and can be difficult for foreigners or others to follow. Just imagine some talking about the Willis Tower when others know it only as the "Sears Tower." Are we speaking of the same thing? Where is the Willis Tower?

We see something like this happening in the Gospel today, when we hear about the Lake of Gennesaret, which is also known as the Sea of Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee! The New Testament uses three different names for the same body of water, which makes it challenging for those of us reading about this two thousand years later and more than an ocean away.

Such is the setting for the call of Simon as Luke tells it. This story is different from that told in Mark, Matthew or John. Here Luke has a focus on Simon, without his brother Andrew. In fact, Luke mentions Andrew only in the list of the twelve where he calls him the brother of Simon. Otherwise we hear nothing of Andrew from Luke. Luke also tells us in this story that Simon was "Simon Peter" prior to Jesus naming him "Peter." And we also hear about James and John, the sons of Zebedee, partners of Simon. According to Luke, this was not Simon's first encounter with Jesus.

Immediately prior to the story in today's gospel, Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law. So, this provides more back ground to Simon's appeal to Jesus, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Simon has encountered the power of Jesus in the healing of his mother-in-law and now in the miraculous catch of fish. Faced with this Simon is utterly aware of his own humanity and humility. Jesus responds with a line that has reverberated through the centuries, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." What a difference this story is in the hands of the master storyteller Luke. From Mark he inherited a story about Jesus' call of Simon, Andrew, James, and John, all of whom immediately dropped their nets to

follow Jesus. Luke instead places the focus squarely on Simon Peter to the point that we lose Andrew and only hear of James and John in the closing verses. Furthermore, by preceding this story with the healing of the mother-in-law, Simon's leaving everything to follow Jesus becomes more plausible. We are in the hands of a remarkable theologian and evangelist. We would do well to read his story carefully and with attention to detail.



### *Living the Paschal Mystery*

So often today's gospel story is read symbolically so that the tearing nets mean one thing and the great number of fish mean something else. The boat's near sinking is sometimes interpreted symbolically as well. But it can be more fruitful simply to read Luke's story on its own terms, without fishing for meaning, so to speak.

Jesus provides more than enough. There is bounty with Jesus who surpasses every expectation. When experience teaches Simon that there is no hope, or no use in trying, Jesus encourages him nonetheless and provides excess. This dramatic scene captures something of the initial excitement, humility, and genuineness that often accompanies the early stages of true discipleship. It is then that we die to our own preconceived notions and our own

experience, and open ourselves up to the magnificence of the divine. That is when our cup overflows with the good things God wants to provide. In the face of such generosity, we can only be humble. Simon knows he did not earn this miraculous catch, but it was a free gift. May we, too, die to our own self-importance and grandiosity and recognize that the good things we have are a gift of God.

Some questions for further reflection and meditation:

- In the first reading today we hear of the call of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah responds, "here I am...send me!" Where in your life do you hear the call of God? What do you need in order to respond to this call as Isaiah did?
- In the second reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the witness he has provided to them of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In your own life, who has been a witness of faith for you? How are you a witness to faith for others?
- In the life of faith we are called to persistence. Where might Jesus be calling you to try one more time to put out your nets for a catch?
- In response to Peter's protestations of his own sinfulness, Jesus tells him, "Do not be afraid." Are there places in your own life where fear of failure keeps you from attempting something new? Can you hear Jesus telling you, "Do not be afraid?"

# ANNUAL REPORT

## *The Annual Report*

Last weekend, it was my privilege to present the **Annual Pastoral and Financial Report for 2018**. All present received a printed copy and extras are available again today on the credenza for anyone who was not here and who would like a copy. As required by Diocesan Statute, a copy was also sent to The Bishop in order to be accountable for the parish's life during the past year and our living out of our Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure. I hope you will take a copy home with you to read and reflect on all the ways God continues to work through our parish to make a difference in this part of His kingdom. Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time and talent to accomplish so much, for all those who support the parish financially either through the Sunday Envelope or EFT, and a special thank you to **Maryann Peddicord and Brian McCoy** for all their work in putting the report together.

## *“Divine Renovation: From Maintenance To Mission”*

Yesterday, our Leadership (Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council) met for the entire morning to engage in a discussion about information contained in this book by Father James Mallon, Pastor of St. Benedict Parish, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fr. Mallon made a presentation to pastoral staffs and clergy last fall for our Fall Clergy Staff Days, held at St. Isidore Parish,

Danville. The chapters are engaging and build, one upon another:

1. House of Prayer: Remembering Our Identity and Purpose
2. Rebuild My House: From Vatican II to Pope Francis
3. House of Pain: The Experience of a Maintenance Church
4. Clearing out the Junk: What We Need to Jettison if We are Going to Rebuild
5. Laying the Foundation: How to Transform the Culture of the Parish Community
6. The Front Door: The Sacraments as our Greatest Pastoral Opportunity
7. Leader of the House: The Essential Role of Leadership

I will share more with you in next week's Insert about our gathering, the course of our conversation, and the possible implications for St. Ignatius of Antioch. Please keep the Leadership in thought and prayer as we move forward with this discussion.

## *Deanery Meeting*

This coming Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, the eight parishes of the Delta Deanery will meet with their clergy and pastoral staffs. The Agenda will include “Best Liturgical Practices” as well as sharing the current work and ministry of each faith community. The meeting will conclude with lunch. The Deanery Meeting will be taking place in Brentwood, hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.



### ***Fire Department Chaplaincy***

I am deeply grateful for your support for me as the Chaplain for East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD). I am in my second year as their Chaplain and maintain a regular schedule of station and crew visitation as well as riding along with our crews to various kinds of incidents. There are several events upcoming that I would like to share with you:

This Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., I will be presented with the official Chaplain's Badge for ECCFPD by our Chief, Brian Helmick. The ceremony will include The Blessing of the Badge and then the taking of The Chaplain's Oath before the Badge is formally pinned to my uniform.

This coming Thursday morning, February 14<sup>th</sup>, I will attend and participate in a Critical Incident Stress Management update for our CISM Team at ECCFPD, evaluating our responses last year and looking to how we can be even more effective in responding to CISM requests.

That same evening, at 5:00 p.m., I will serve as Chaplain for Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ConFire) for the

Graduation Ceremony of Academy #52, giving The Invocation, The Blessing of Their Badges, and The Benediction (a Blessing which concludes the graduation ceremony). It is a great honor for me to participate in this capacity as I am the only Fire Chaplain in Contra Costa County.



### ***The Memorial Funeral Liturgy For Grace Lopez***

This coming Saturday afternoon, we will celebrate the Memorial Funeral Liturgy for Grace Lopez, beloved mother of Deborah Lopez. The liturgy begins at 12:30 p.m. Please keep the Lopez Family in your prayers as we give thanks and praise to God for the gift of Grace's life.

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### ***Ash Wednesday and The Beginning of Lent***

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Our schedule of liturgies that day is as follows:

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes**

**12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Word and Imposition of Ashes**

**5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word and Imposition of Ashes**

**7:30 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer and Imposition of Ashes**

The Ash Wednesday Collection has once again been designated for the support of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg. Ash Wednesday is also a **Day of Fast and Abstinence**, meaning that anyone between the ages of 13 and 59 is obligated to take only one full meal, to abstain from meat and meat by-products, and to take only two lesser meals not equivalent to a full meal. Those over the age of 59 are not obliged to fast but are obliged to abstain from meat.

***Installation of the Lenten Environment***

You are invited to join us in preparing the church for Lent by joining the members of the Art & Environment Committee in removing the environment for Winter's Ordinary Time and installing the environment for Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent. We begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and will work through the morning, and if necessary, into the early afternoon to complete our work. Coffee and pastries are provided mid-morning and lunch if necessary. This is a wonderful way to develop your liturgical spirituality.



***Thank You To All Our Volunteers***

On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank the following who faithfully carry out various tasks throughout each week: those who cleaned the church and bathrooms on January 26<sup>th</sup>: **Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, Carole Miller, Angela Bueno, Jean Rogers, Mency Osborne, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who cleaned the church and bathrooms last Saturday and maintained the bathrooms throughout the week: **Mency Osborne, Carole Miller, Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, Steve Rojek, Father Robert, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Theresa Chandler, and Harlan Young.**

...to those who helped with the environment change on January 15<sup>th</sup> to Winter's Ordinary Time: **Erika Fernandes, David Rodrigues, Janice Kegler, Judi Heckendorn, Anne Peck, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Harlan Young, Dave Simpson, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Werner & Roseanna Hoch, Claudia Gumina, Don Benson, Rich Confetti and Paticia Britton.**

...to **Dilcia Aparicio** 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:

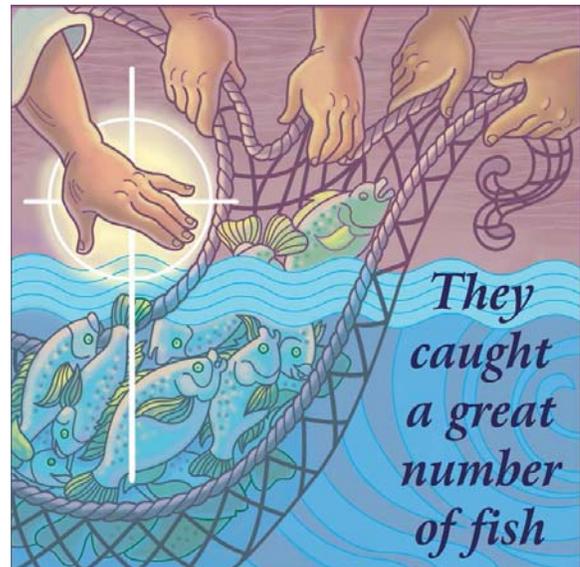
**Sharon Cissell, Melodye Costanza, Alicia Perez, Yvette Young, Harlan Young, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Paul Rioski.**

...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, Sherry Webb and Deanna Ribeiro.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keeps watch over our vehicles during the weekend Liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Jose Perez, Tony Gumina and Dave Simpson.**

**Bushman and Bob Plurkowski** for organizing this fundraiser.



### ***Parish Super Bowl Raffle***

Thank you to all those who participated in the annual Super Bowl Football Raffle! Congratulations to all the winners! The winners are: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter winner was **Walter Schlueter**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter winner was **Jose Perez**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter winner and end of game winner was **Dilcia Aparicio**. All proceeds benefit St. Ignatius of Antioch Church. A special thank you to **Clem**