

**For The Bulletin Of  
May 12, 2019**



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER – GOOD SHEPHERD  
SUNDAY**

***From Father Robert***

Though we are in Cycle C (the Gospel of Luke), today we have another reading from the Gospel of John. Each week since Easter we have read from this gospel. Today we read not about a resurrection appearance but instead we hear about the familiar, comforting image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We are His sheep who hear His voice and respond by following Him. Of course, to follow means to be a disciple, so the image of a shepherd and His sheep is especially apt.

Francis, Bishop of Rome, seems to find this image instructive as well. He speaks of the role of bishops and priests to be shepherds (for that is the meaning of the Latin term, *pastor*). Francis says that the shepherd must have the “smell of the sheep.” Such an image is certainly vivid, graphic, and leaves little to the imagination. It conjures up one who is uncomfortably close to the sheep. But that is essentially the model of the Good Shepherd, and one to be emulated by those who serve.

Not only do we follow the Good Shepherd upon hearing His voice, but we also learn that the Good Shepherd gives eternal life.

The symbolism is profound and perhaps even more so because the snippet we read today is so short. The meaning of the words should not be lost in their brevity. The relationships of the sheep to the shepherd is dependent upon the Father and Jesus. The Father has given the sheep to Jesus. No one can take them from the Father or the Son, for the Father and the Son are one. Again, the theological sophistication and the high Christology are worthy of meditation.

Given the symbolism, the task of the sheep is pure and simple, to follow Jesus, to be a disciple. The task of the Father and the Son is not to lose the sheep, or perhaps not to give them up to those who might try to pry open their hands.

Our task, therefore, is no more difficult than following Jesus. To do that we must be attentive to His voice.



***Living The Paschal Mystery***

It would be easy to follow Jesus if He were physically present here upon the earth, healing the sick and curing the lame. Who wouldn't leave everything to do that? But it's much more difficult to

be attentive to the voice of Jesus after the resurrection. And that is precisely what this gospel passage requires of us. We are to listen closely amidst the noise and sound of our world and discern the voice of the Good Shepherd. What is it He calls us to do? Where does He want us to go? We would like to follow Him, but how to hear His voice?



When we speak do we sound more like we are echoing the gospel or syndicated TV or radio shows? Are we following Christ, attuned to His voice in scripture? Or are we more closely attuned to the culture, knowing the voice of the more popular media? How we speak and how we act may tell us more about who we are ultimately following. On this Fourth Sunday of Easter it is good to pause and reflect on our path. Whose voice do we follow?

- Psalm 100 tells us we are “God’s people, the flock He tends.” How is our parish community a unified flock, led by the Good Shepherd? How can you strive to embrace even greater unity?
- How do you listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd in your daily life?
- How is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calling you to listen to Him at this moment in your life?
- Good Shepherd Sunday is a time to remember your own vocation in life. What are some ways you can grow in your vocation as a single or married person over the coming year?

Today we join all families in celebrating and honoring all women on Mother’s Day. We thank God for the gift of you and for all those who live out the vocation of motherhood. We are grateful for mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, foster mothers, step-mothers, godmothers, and all the wonderful and holy women who nurture and nourish our lives. You are all being remembered in each of our liturgies today and for the next nine days. May God richly bless you for all you do and even more, for who you are. Happy Mother’s Day!



### ***The Mary Project***

For the past 11 years, we have been invited to support the Mary Project which provides baby supplies to Birthright of Brentwood. Established by **Kathleen Clarke, in honor of the birth of her daughter, Mary**, the project supports those young women who made the choice to bring their children to birth rather than to abort them. The number of gifts brought to the Icon of Our

Mother of Perpetual Help, has enabled Birthright to meet the needs of these young mothers for a year or more. Many thanks to all of you who are participating this year and making such a difference in the lives of these women, their babies, and families.



### ***Fire Chaplain Training***

This coming Tuesday through Friday, I will be away for Fire Chaplaincy Training in two specific areas: Advanced Group Critical Incident Stress Management and Suicide: Pre-vention, Inter-vention, and Post-vention. The classes will take place at the Contra Costa Fire Prevention District's Training Center in Concord from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Father Moses will preside for Eucharist on both Wednesday and Friday in my absence. I would ask for the charity of your prayers for all of us, firefighters and chaplains, as we go through these days of training and enrichment.



### ***One Of Our New Sacred Vessels Is Missing***

On Palm Sunday, we began to use the new sacred vessels that I obtained in honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They include 6 silver chalices and 6 matching silver host vessels from St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. Sometime after Easter Sunday, one of the vessels for the hosts disappeared, leaving us with only 5. No one saw anyone take it. I am at a loss as to why anyone would remove one of our sacred vessels, whether from the Credence Table in the sanctuary or from the Sacristy. And while it saddens me greatly to use this word, I am forced to name it for what it is: a theft. I am hoping that whom ever took it, will return it immediately. There will be no questions asked. Please do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Unfortunately, this is not the first time that something from the church has been stolen – we've also had some of our sacred linens taken as well, especially those with beautiful hand embroidery, the linens that were used for the Gift Table. It is difficult to imagine that anyone would steal from a church.



Each year I send flowers to Bishop Emeritus John Cummins from all of us at both Christmas and Easter. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Cummins wrote the following letter of thanks:

Dear Father Robert,  
My thanks to you and to the faith community of St. Ignatius of Antioch. The extraordinary bouquet served the Easter Octave in splendor. It occupied the space in the dining room that opened on the glass doors therefore refreshing all of us whether inside or out.

Easter was a rich experience this year. I did not act as celebrant, but I attended the Great Vigil with the Dominican Sisters at Mission San Jose – well planned, faith filled, colorfully and audibly decorated. It matched the bouquet.

All the best for the Easter days,  
sincerely,  
John Cummins+  
Bishop Emeritus of Oakland



We are blessed with an extraordinary group of volunteers who do so much for the parish and all of us. On behalf of all of us, thank you...to those who clean the church and parish hall each week:

**Angela Bueno, Emilia Freking, Nina Bourain, Thelma & Reno Benasfre, Mency Osborne, 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: **Rose Salamanca, Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Fr. Robert.**

...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:

**Frances Rojek, Mel Costanza, Maryann Peddicord, Estrella Rusk, Rowena Cayaban, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Paul Riofski.**

...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, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta and Sherry Webb.**

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



### ***New Parishioner Brunch***

On Sunday morning, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, after 10 AM Mass, St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish officially brought more than 40 new parishioners, including RCIA neophytes, into our social family at the annual Welcome Brunch, all planned and prepared by Pastoral Council. This is the event the Council looks forward to all year, believing that a new parishioner should be celebrated like a new life in this world, and honored by a communal feast, the likes of which are not often seen during the year. We are grateful to be their new home, and grateful to Maryann Peddicord and Frances Rojek for managing the guest list in the office, keeping track of the many responses as they did. Our outreach to our new people certainly carried much credibility, as 100% of invitees eagerly attended.

Their stories were touching and often amusing, but a common theme was their journey in coming to us, often taking place over months, even years. It was indeed a homecoming, and all acknowledged the open arms of a beaming Father Robert as a primary factor for their decisions. We happened to share the kitchen with YLI that

morning, and amid so much traffic in the kitchen, one YLI member stopped, watched our progress, and teased, “You’re going to spoil them!” We resounded, “Yes! That is exactly what we are trying to do. They will never look for another church again!”...and with exquisite farm-to table selections posted on the menu board, and a bubbly mimosa in hand, who would think of it?

Pastoral Council enjoyed each other’s company for several hours, especially as we sipped Steve Andreatta’s sparkling mixes, savored aromas created by guest chef Kathy Augusta’s egg casseroles, studded with bacon and ham, along with newest council member, David Rodrigues’ Belgian waffle station. Other treats included Reggie Desmond’s famous deviled eggs, ever back by popular demand, and Parkside New York sausage, from Bill Barbanica’s BBQ. Another new item was “Holy Ground” Cream of Carrot Soup, made from fresh picked carrots, peas, and cilantro from the Parish Garden. There were also fresh picked Brentwood Farmers’ Market strawberries, asparagus, and avocados, with homemade banana, blueberry and zucchini breads for dessert. It was a wonderful day, and Pastoral Council was overjoyed to dedicate the morning and all its efforts, to our New Parishioner friends.

By the way, the Pastoral Council has open spots for additional members. If it sounds like we have fun, just wait until you join us! If you would like more information about what the Pastoral Council is about, please contact Will Avitabile at [wavitabile@aol.com](mailto:wavitabile@aol.com), or stop one of the current members (they will be wearing a gold badge) after Sunday Mass.

