

**For The Bulletin Of
June 9, 2019**



**THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
THE CONCLUSION OF THE
EASTER SEASON AND THE
GREAT 50TH DAY**

From Father Robert

We are now about fifty days, or seven weeks, from Easter. To be clear, Pentecost was a Jewish feast of the springtime, also known as the Feast of Weeks, or the Feast of the New Harvest or even the Feast of New Wine. Because it comes about fifty days after the feast of Passover it was also called Pentecost (which means “fifty” in Greek). The Acts of the Apostles tell us that it was on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost that the apostles were emboldened by the Spirit to preach to Israel, assembled in Jerusalem for the feast. Thus, Luke precedes the story of Peter (as representing the Twelve) and his preaching, with the outpouring of the Spirit, thereby emboldening the Twelve so.

But today we read from the Gospel of John, which seems not to know anything about the feast of Pentecost and the emboldened Peter preaching. Instead, the story we have in John takes place on Easter Sunday when the risen Christ appears to the disciples (save Thomas,

which we shall learn later) to give them the Spirit and the gift of peace. Upon receiving the gift of the Spirit, the disciples are emboldened not to preach (as Luke would have it) but to forgive sins. Though Jesus conquered the cosmic power of sin on the cross, it is the role of the disciples to forgive individual sins, almost as a clean-up operation after the major victory has been won.

Though this power to forgive sins has been traditionally understood to be the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this should not stop modern followers of Jesus (disciples) from forgiving others. In other words, forgiveness is not limited to sacramental ritual. Forgiveness has a power to unleash one held by some wrongdoing. We need think only about our own friends and families. How often do we forgive someone who has wronged us? How often do we seek forgiveness when we’ve wronged another? Those tasks belong to the disciples of Jesus per His handing on the Spirit after Easter. We can certainly forgive and seek forgiveness without taking anything away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Living The Paschal Mystery

The paschal mystery calls us to die to ourselves so we might be lifted up by and with Christ. One way we die to ourselves is to seek forgiveness when we do something wrong. Simply asking for

forgiveness is a sign of humility, and it is something not often done. Not only are we to ask for forgiveness, but we are also to forgive when someone wrongs us. Rather than hold a grudge our role as disciples is to forgive, in imitation of Jesus Who set the example for all of us. If He can forgive those who wronged Him. How much more must we forgive those who wrong us? To be a disciple requires nothing less. An admirer will certainly respect and praise the forgiveness Jesus effects, but a follower will seek to do the same, and forgive. As disciples, followers of Jesus, let us forgive as He forgave.

- In the Acts of the Apostles the Gift of the Spirit allows the apostles to communicate to people from many different countries. Have you ever experienced our Liturgy in another language? What was this experience like?
- In the psalm we pray for the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. In our community where is there the need of renewal? How might you be a part of the renewing work of the Spirit?
- In the First Letter to the Corinthians St. Paul lists the gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues. Which gift do you feel the most comfortable with? Which gift discomferts or challenges you?
- In the gospel reading we find one of the scriptural sources for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What was your first experience

of reconciliation like? Was it positive or negative? Have you celebrated reconciliation recently? If not, what is holding you back?



40th Anniversary Thank You

On behalf of all of us, I want to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those who made last weekend's celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish such a memorable occasion: **Marla Plurkowski, The Chair of the Anniversary Committee; Susan Batteredon, Will Avitabile, Catherine Vidaurri, Dave Costanza, Brian & Vicki McCoy, Theresa Nelms, Steve & Frances Rojek, Lorraine Lohmeier, Bill Barbanica, Emily Douville, MaryAnne Douville, Maryann Peddicord, Reggia Desmond, Pat Kramer, Rachelle Martin, Beth Enea, Kathy & Vince Augusta, Kathleen Maasberg, Carolyn Van Gilder, Judi Heckendorn, Jane Sharpe, Bob Plurkowski, The Knights of Columbus, Clem Bushman, Jack Goncalves, Emily Plurkowski, Katharine Plurkowski, DJ Charles, Mike Desmond, The Parish Office Staff and Volunteers; The Parish Choir and Cantors, Don Pearson, Adult Acolytes, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Guild, and Sacristans, and those who provided Security.**

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for the Gift of the beautiful new

silver chalice with the red node in honor of my 45th Anniversary of Ordination and the card with its note of expression, gratitude and appreciation for my presence with you as your shepherd, pastor, and friend. I am deeply humbled to have been assigned to the parish going on 15 years ago and all of the wonderful and exciting opportunities for ministry and outreach we have shared together. I thank you for your patience, understanding, forgiveness when necessary, your support, prayers, and most important of all your love for me. We have accomplished much and none of it would have been possible without your trust, energy, enthusiasm, support, help, participation, and faith. You have taught me much about what it means to be a “foot washer” and a follower of Jesus. I hope you can say that I truly “smell like you!”

I don't know precisely what the next 40 years will hold, but I trust that there will be some similarities: there will still be sacramental preparation, liturgies will continue to be celebrated with Sunday as the model and priority, there will continue to be baptisms, First Eucharists, Confirmations, weddings, anointings, celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in both the private and communal form, funeral liturgies, social outreach, social events and most important of all, our continued growth in faith and as missionary disciples of Jesus.



Festa do Espirito Santo

Next weekend, the members of our Portuguese Community will celebrate The Festa do Espirito Santo, The Feast of the Holy Spirit. I have been invited to preside for the Eucharist at the Portuguese Hall on 10th Street here in Antioch at 11:00 a.m., followed by the traditional Sopas. I will preside in Portuguese and preach in English. In my absence, Fr. Mangini will be here to preside and preach for the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist.



Parish Leadership Meeting

Since late last year, the members of the Leadership of the parish, The Pastoral Staff, The Pastoral Council, and The Finance Council, have been working their way through Father James Mallon's book, ***Divine Renovation: Moving The Parish From Maintenance To Mission.*** We finished the last chapter on “Leadership” at our most recent meeting and we will meet again on the last Saturday of June, the 29th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. In some ways, parts of Fr. Mallon's book have begun to be implemented, most especially with

the evenings of Liturgical Renewal led by Steve and Frances Rojek, following the model of “*Alpha*.” We have also begun using the language of becoming “missionary disciples” to describe our calling as “Jesus followers.” More is yet to be done and we will be discerning ways to move forward, creating ways to facilitate greater engagement and ownership of the parish. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas in person or in writing with the members of the Pastoral Council who are easily recognizable by the gold name badges they wear when present for liturgy. I will keep you informed in future bulletin inserts concerning our progress.



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Thanks To Our Volunteers

There is no question that the Spirit is alive and well in so many of our parish volunteers who do so much to help us with the care of the parish, its ministries, programs, and outreaches. Our thanks to: those who arrive very early every Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend: **Reno & Thelma Benasfre, Jun Bajet, Alfred Madoshi, Al Cosce, Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, Angela Bueno, Jean Rogers, Emilia Freking, Mency Osborne.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Steve Rojek, Rose Salamanca, Mary Ewing,**

Patricia Britton, and Father 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, Beth 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.**

The Violence Continues

June 4, 2019

Dear Friends,

The latest killings of twelve people in Virginia Beach continues the unfortunate saga of violence that now characterizes life in the United States. The muted responses to this outrageous attack on

innocent people and the total lack of justice on the part of the Federal Government is itself an act of violence.

The limited outcry and lack of serious governmental response point to two possible factors. One, we have accommodated ourselves to thinking that violence is outrageous when it occurs in a Sanctuary space. But, ask anyone who ever survived violence in a sanctuary, and they will remind you that everywhere is sacred space when it comes to the dignity of persons and their right to live. Second, we are becoming numb to the culture of violence around us. The "numbness" is a collective defense mechanism by which a traumatized community begins to lose its ability to experience and wholeheartedly respond to the pain and anguish. At this point, something must be done.

The Interfaith Peace Project takes this unfortunate moment in our history to pledge anew to work for that justice that will mercifully address the issues of violence in community, mind, and heart. We will do everything in our power not to forget those victimized and slaughtered by senseless acts of violence. We will continue to stand against the violence of words that now litters the Halls of Government and endangers the well-being of so many powerless persons. We will continue to foster programs by which concerned peoples can address the issues of the day in ways constructive and transformative. We will memorialize the victims of violence by raising the consciousness of anyone who visits our Centers to stand in solidarity and respect with those who are terrorized by abuse, violence, and hatred.

We sympathize with the citizens of Virginia Beach and are grateful for their show of solidarity in this tragic moment of their history. We are inspired by their example and courage. They join a community of neighborhoods, cities, villages, and regions throughout the Nation who have found strength and purpose in the midst of tragedy and sorrow. These communities of our neighbors remind us not to forget and provide the antidote for any numbness that might sedate our commitment to do what is right. They remind us in their willingness to stand up when their loved ones and neighbors are injured or murdered that everywhere is Holy Ground and everyone is precious.

We call to mind the comforting and challenging words of the Virginia Beach Mayor, Bobby Dwyer, who so lovingly declared in this moment of brokenness:

"There is one thing that is most evident that has come about: We in Virginia Beach are a city of heroes. We have heroes with our military. We have many members of our public that help and save lives. But most of all, let me commend the officers, the people that ran into a building with an active shooter shooting .45-caliber bullets and saved many people without doubt, question or reservation."

Peacefully,

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.,

Relay for Life Pasta Dinner

On Saturday, May 25th the St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life Team held their annual pasta dinner fundraiser. The

evening commenced with appetizers served by the kitchen staff which included: **Carole Miller, Lorraine Lohmeier, Pam Confetti, Maryann Peddicord and Alicia Perez.** Penne pasta in marinara sauce was prepared by our wonderful chef **Rich Confetti** while **Don Benson** prepared the french bread. Thank you to **Brian and Vicki McCoy** for the delicious caesar salad. An assortment of cookies and delicious desserts were also donated.

Thank you to the following team members who donated raffle prizes: **Marla Plurkowski, Pam Confetti, Frances Rojek, Fina Villalpando, Alicia Perez, Kathleen Clarke, June Stuhldreier, Carol Huff.** Thank you to our beverage servers and door greeters: **Jose Palomino, Jose Perez, Anthony Villalpando, Tony Gumina, Pam Confetti and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

Hosts **Maryann Peddicord and Alicia Perez** explained about Relay for Life, the fundraising arm of the American Cancer Society. St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay team has been a strong supporter of this event for over 15 years. The team includes cancer survivors and caretakers of loved ones who have been touched by cancer. The Relay for Life walk will take place Saturday, June 22nd to Sunday morning, June 23rd. It is a 24 hour walk at the Los Medanos College athletic track. Everyone is welcome to walk for free, In Memory of or In Honor of a loved one touched by cancer. The Memory Book which is carried by the team during the Relay will be located in the narthex up to that weekend if you would like to write the names of your loved ones to be remembered.

Last year the team raised over \$7,000 thanks to the generosity of our parish family. If you are not able to make the walk, we encourage you to support our team by making a small donation online. Just go to relayforlife.org/thedeltaca and look for St. Ignatius of Antioch, and click under our name for a donation. Let's continue to fight cancer together!

Winter Nights Shelter

Steve Rojek has reminded me in the past, when I am so overcome with excitement for St. Ignatius of Antioch social outreach efforts, (in this case, teams manning the dinner crews for Winter Nights Shelter), that I am perhaps missing sight of what should always be forefront, that is, that our ultimate goal beyond a week's worth of hospitality and wholesome meals is to nurture, encourage and empower our guest families to fully re-enact our efforts on their own behalf. We pray that, sooner than later, after reclaiming autonomy in safe housing choices and consumer decisions, they will enjoy shopping for and preparing healthy foods, eating together, and thanking God for it all, just as when we were with them. Steve continues to act out this principle, often volunteering to serve by himself on a night late in their week, usually Friday, and arriving with calm, kindness, and steady expectation of what he means to communicate to these otherwise homeless adults with dependent children. To be sure, the St. Ignatius of Antioch week always ends well, as it did this time, and thankfully so, because the shelter's services ended Monday as they do every first week of June, due to funding and staffing constraints.

In fact, on Sunday night, June 2nd, when there were only 6 diners left at the temporary home, Community Church hall in Pittsburg, all had been fitted with appropriate housing for the next day and beyond. Scarcely a week before that, however, the situation was of great concern, with 5 families in indoor tents, caring for 14 children between them, many of them infants and toddlers. (The housing search was still in progress.) All dinner teams, then, needed to provide food that was easy for toddlers to eat, and easy for parents to present to them! *On Friday, two days previous, when **Steve Rojek** invited **Pat Kramer** to assist, he brought grilled chicken breasts with BBQ sauce, potato salad, mac and cheese, cut watermelon and chocolate chip cookie dough cream pie (wow!) to the 11 remaining guests, yet, just one day before, * there were 26 guests for the Pastoral Council group, when **Father Robert** joined **Will, Catherine, Bill Barbanica, and Reggie Desmond** (absent but participating), along with friends **Brian and Vicki McCoy**, and **Pat Kramer** that night, to offer various proteins and veggies: Hebrew National hot dogs and buns, turkey chili and BBQ chicken wings, fresh cut-up veggies with Ranch dressing cups, homemade potato salad, strawberries and cantaloupe, with lemonade and Reggie's assorted homemade cookies for dessert. Behind the scenes, shelter administrators were working hard to find appropriate housing, and to place residents. Upon observation of the numbers diminishing almost every day, they were successful in their work.*In fact, Weds., when **Frances and Steve Rojek** and their team of **Kathleen Clarke** and her kids, **Mary and Joe**, with **Maryann Peddicord**, treated the families to build-

your-own tacos night with "the works," seasoned beef, cheddar cheese, tomatoes, avocados, sour cream and jalapenos, not to mention beans and rice, she served as many people with these fun, healthy fillings, and then treated them to Its-It ice cream sandwiches and choice of chocolate and vanilla cones! ***Estrella Rusk** and Tuesday friends, **Cris Malonosan, Vangie Parrilla, and Pat Kramer**, served pasta, meatballs, empanadas, lumpia, garlic bread and lemon meringue pie. Everyone loved her lumpia! By Tuesday night the shelter staff had begun to place families, and had 23 for Estrella feed, *but for Monday, when **Dave Costanza, Liz Carnero** and her grandson **Eddy Carnero, Pat Kramer, and Brian and Vicki** served, the numbers were right where they were at the end of the previous week, 26. Such a big team that night made it possible to serve a wonderful spread of Dave's special BBQ tri-tip and chicken, his Mother Fara's rice with mixed veggies, and green salad, all capped by **Lorraine Lohmeier's** homemade chocolate chip cookies and root beer floats for dessert.

Whew! Yay! We did it! Of course, the considerable number of person-hours needed for shopping and meal prep is good cause to let all our parish ministries enjoy taking a turn, and all those that did, earnestly love to prepare good food and see the community celebrate with it. Truly, Winter Nights shelter, on the last day of offered services, had much to celebrate, as all their guests had been accommodated with safe and stable housing circumstances. The care of the guests did not only involve evening meals and fellowship, though, for a shelter like this, especially one with so many children, needs diapers and hygiene supplies, along with healthy,

perishable fruits, snack foods and beverages like whole milk, also, items for making lunches, like paper goods, deli meats and boxed juices. **Brian and Vicki McCoy** contacted the administrators the week ahead, and made a Costco trip to bring in these items, and at least one more trip during the week that St. Ignatius of Antioch participated. But wait! That is not all that is involved, not by a longshot! St. Ignatius of Antioch also watches over the needs of the residents all during the winter, as they are transported to Oasis Center during the day hours (St. Vincent de Paul in Pittsburg) and there, do laundry, shower, and receive counseling and other services. If they could only thank **Liz Carnero, Ronda DeMay, Sue & Rick Howell, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Brian and Vicki McCoy** for washing at home the many towels needed every week, week after week! We thank them, in their stead.

The best part, was that five local churches as yet uninvolved in sponsoring a week at Winter Nights, have expressed interest in joining the effort next year, and invited by **Pastor Will**, sent representatives on Thurs. night (Parish Council night), and stayed for dinner. Awareness of the reality of homelessness is spreading to others who would also be stewards of care, and that was best news of all.



Thank You Knights of Columbus

This past Wednesday evening, June 5th, I was presented with two checks from the

present Grand Knight, Tim Cox, and Past Grand Knight, Bill Barbanica on behalf of the Knights of Columbus: one for \$10,000 and the other for \$500.00. The first represents their proceeds from this year's Lenten Fish Frys and the other from their donation in honor of Mothers for Mother's Day and in honor of Fathers for Father's Day. On behalf of all of us I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for their continued generosity and support for our parish and its programs and ministries.

The funds donated have been directed to the Hall Expansion/Kitchen Building Fund and will certainly give us the needed funds to hopefully proceed with our project. Again, thank you Knights for all you have done and continue to do for our parish.

