

**For The Bulletin Of
August 4, 2019**



**THE 18TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Many of us know and are familiar with Jesus' teachings. But what would we consider to be among the most popular topics that Jesus addressed? Or another question we might ask is, what are the most popular topics we hear about today in churches? Are the two related? Do the priorities of Jesus and His preaching align with preaching we hear at our parish? Interestingly, some of the issues Jesus addressed more than others were about money and the right use of it. Rarely did He address issues concerning buildings of worship, parish schools, sexuality, LGBT, or even contraception. Jesus preached often about how people use their money. And today's gospel is a case, or rather two cases, in point.

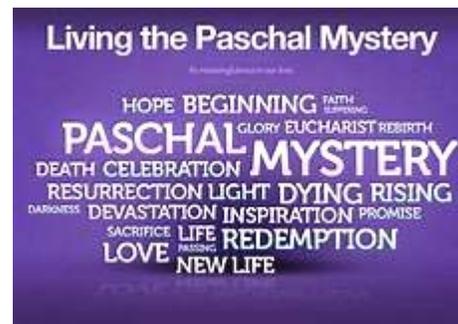
The first story is about someone who wants his share of the inheritance. Rather than get in the middle of that battle, (Jesus seems to have been wise not to step into that conflict), He gives a quick "aphorism" that's appropriate for Christian and non-Christian alike, "One's life does not consist of possessions." In fact, this teaching reflects certain schools of Greek

philosophy, and even modern common sense.

The second story is called the parable of the rich food. Indeed, God Himself addresses the rich man as "you fool," for he spent his time on earth acquiring a bountiful harvest, "treasure for himself." But that very night he will die, not "rich in what matters to God." Here it is clear that bountiful harvests, storehouses, and great material blessings are not what matters to God. Other gospel passages from Luke will make clear what does matter to God. In this passage we learn the "via negativa," or a negative way, what does not.

The parable calls us to reconsider our own harvests and storehouses. What are we acquiring and for what purpose? "One's life does not consist of possessions." It's a lesson so clear and fundamental that we need to be reminded of it again and again.

Parish preaching does well to echo themes introduced by Jesus Himself. All other ancillary but related issues will then naturally fall in line. But how we spend our money says as great deal about us as human beings. Our values, priorities, and interests are all expressed by the way we spend money.



The gospel from Luke invites us to take stock of our lives from a different perspective. When God calls us from

this life, what will we have left? The old adage, “you can’t take it with you,” comes to mind. No matter what physical things or possession we acquire here on earth we take nothing with us after we die. Put another way, our lives are not our possessions. A monthly checking account statement or credit card bill can become a moment of prayer. Our spending reflects our priorities.

It behooves us to step back from a desire to acquire and ask ourselves why. What is the purpose of our possessions? Rather than become rich in the eyes of the world, it is better to become rich in what matters to God. When we lift up the lowly, feed the hungry, and forgive sins of others, we acquire riches in what matters most to God. We have no ledger sheet or checking account to track this behavior. Instead, it flows from our identity as Christians, as followers of Jesus, living a spirituality of the paschal mystery.

- Which activities in your life fall into the category of “vanity of vanities?” How might you exchange some of these meaningless pursuits for more fulfilling work?
- Our finances can tell us a lot about our priorities in life. When you look at your monthly expenses is your spending in line with what is most important to you? What about what is most important to Jesus?
- Where in your life are you “rich in what matters to God?”
- Where is there excess in your life? How might God be calling you to share that excess with others?



About Liturgy: The Sunday Collection

The collection taken up at Liturgy is an ancient tradition with its roots in the early church. Originally, the people brought forward bread and wine from their own homes to be used for the Eucharist. They also presented goods from their possessions – foods they harvested, livestock from their farms, household items from their own storeroom. These would be distributed by the deacons to those in need in the community as well as given for the material needs of the church.

Today, we still ritually present bread and wine, though not usually from our own homes. Also, the gifts for the poor and the church are now given in the form of money.

Taking up a collection has significant meaning for what we do at the Eucharist. Giving from our financial resources is not, as some might treat it, a measure of one’s satisfaction with the liturgy or with the church in general. Our Christian sacrifice cannot be some vague theoretical idea. We have to give something of ourselves that is a real sacrifice – something we would rather not give up. For most of us today, that’s money. Beyond simply being a way to help the parish pay its bills, the collection is one way we bring ourselves – “the work of human hands” along with

the “fruit of the earth” – to the altar. That’s why the collection is brought forward with the bread and wine we use for the Eucharist. The money we put in the collection basket helps us do the mission of Jesus not only by keeping the lights and air conditioning on, but also by funding our ministries, programs, and outreaches as well as staffing, helping the poor, teaching the faith, preparing our liturgies, visiting the sick, and so much more.

Finally, contributing financially is also a way we express our trust in God. We give the fruit of our own labor back to God, acknowledging that every good gift we have been given comes first from God.



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **Carlos Garcia** by his parents, **Leo and Cecilia Garcia**.



Paris Tour To France

For the past several weeks, you have been reading and hearing about our next parish tour, a trip to Paris and France! We leave on August 25th and return on September 6th. We will fly roundtrip from San Francisco to Paris and visit its famous cathedrals, museums, the royal palace at Versailles, the beaches of Normandy and the American Cemetery, and bring the tour to a grand conclusion at Lourdes. We will be staying in First Class hotels and enjoying the exquisite cuisine that the restaurants offer, the finest in dining and wines from the wine-growing region of Bourdeaux.

Linda Grelli of Black Diamond Travel has put our tour together and we will have the same tour director for this trip as we did when we made the trip to Italy five years ago. Unfortunately, I do not yet have the price per person as the air fare cost continues to fluctuate. Once that has settled, we will know the price. Until then, please give a call to Maryann at the office and leave your name and contact information to be placed on the list. I can take 40 people with me. When the list reaches 40, we will start a Waiting List.



Going Forward In Faith

This past Saturday morning, a wonderful group of parishioners met with me to be welcomed to our ongoing planning following our reading of Father James Mallon's book, "Divine Renovation: Moving The Parish From Maintenance To Mission." Participants included **Finian and Rosemary Anyanwyu, Helga Boardman, Jeffrey and Carmelita Boatright, Raymond and Michelle Daviess, Agnelo and Erika Fernandes, MaryJo Keister, Jena Kwa, Ron and Faye Lucas, Miguel and Doreen Manalac, Charlie and Cecille Mirano, Al and Rose Necor, Charles and Claudine Oncena, Anna Tellez, and Marla Plurkowski.** I brought them "up to speed" on how the Leadership of the parish has reflected on the book and its challenge since last Fall as well as distributing minutes from each meeting. I was joined by **Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate,** who assisted me in facilitating the groups process. Our goal is to prepare a Strategic Plan that I am calling "Going Forward in Faith" for the next five years. One of the most significant elements of the group is that they represent a majority of the cultures and ethnic groups that make up our parish community. We are working to address the needs of our youth as well as those of each culture, learning about one

another, and being able to celebrate our diversity as one faith community. There was great energy, enthusiasm, honesty, openness, and dedication to going forward. Our next meeting will take place on Saturday morning, August 17th. I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.



Last weekend, parishioners saw the "sign" "INRI" over the copper crucifix in our church for the first time. Created by parishioner and artist, **Frank Vitale,** the crucifix was installed in 1998 and was commissioned by Fr. Vince Cotter, the Pastor at that time. The crucifix, however, did not have the INRI sign above it. For all these years, Frank has reflected and meditated on this and last week, created the sign from copper to match the crucifix. The sign is more square than rectangular and Frank has asked me to get feedback from our parishioners as to which form of the sign they would prefer: the square one that is there now or one that is more rectangular. The letters on the sign are abbreviations of the Roman sign placed on the top arm of the cross on which Jesus was crucified, translated as *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," the "crime for which He was crucified. This was the custom of the Romans to indicate the crime that someone had committed that caused their crucifixion. Please feel free to send me your thoughts or speak to me personally to let me know which form of the sign you would prefer. We will respond accordingly.



Our parish is blessed with many wonderful volunteers who do a wide variety of tasks to help with our work and mission: those who clean the church each Saturday morning: **Al Cosce, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Jean Rogers, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Nancy Santos, Carole Miller, Alfred Madoshi, Reno & Thelma Benasfre, and Emilia Freking.**

...those who clean the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Rose Salamanca, Nancy Santos, and Father Robert.**

...a very special Thank You to the Volunteers who helped with our Grand Raffle Mailer this week; it was very much appreciated: **Bernice Campbell, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield, Judy Quicho, Gloria Olvera, Claudia and Tony Gumina, Bobbie Ochang, Vangie Parrilla, Geri Chiechi, Anne Peck, Laurie Tapia, and Erlinda Titus.**

...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, Adora Pesapane, 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, Alicia Perez, Bev Iacona, Joe Fanfa 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, 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 Jose Perez.**



Please remember to send in your Tithes and Offerings during the summer months. While we are able to take vacation and get away, the bills, financial obligations, staff salaries, and other financial responsibilities continue. We appreciate how faithful you are in supporting the parish and the building of God's kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. The summer months, June through August, present the greatest challenge to our budget. Thank you in advance for making sure that your weekly offering/tithe/pledge is sent in.

Second Quarter Financial Report

The Parish Financial Report for June 30, 2019 is included with this weekend's bulletin. It contains important information about parish income and expenditures for the first 6 months of the year as well as an update on the Expansion Project.

