

## For The Bulletin Of August 10, 2019



### THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

#### *From Father Robert*

As we continue our Ordinary Time journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, we hear more parables and teachings, laden with ancient imagery. As we are familiar with the expression, “Gird your loins,” many in the pew may not know exactly what that means. Though it has the sense “brace yourself,” it literally means something like “tighten your pants.” That image, coupled with “light your lamps” and “be like servants who await their mater’s return,” and even “recline at table” tells us we are in the ancient world, in a culture quite removed from our own. But despite these images and the imaginary cultural bridge we must cross, we can certainly gain a sense of what is meant by these teachings. Some simply prefer to focus on the line “be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come,” shedding all ancient and other imagery.

When we reduce the teaching to this essential element, it becomes easier to grasp the message, which is not solely about the end times. Instead, the exhortation to be prepared applies to

each of us as we do not know the time, place, or date of our personal end. In other words, we don’t know when we will die.

It might be more exciting to reflect on the end of the world, but it is far more likely that we will not be around for that event. We can be assured that we’ll be around for the end of *our own* world. And for that we should be prepared spiritually.

This might not be such a happy or pleasant message on an August weekend in the midst of Summer’s Ordinary Time. But perhaps this is a good time to hear it. When summer plans are winding down and attention is turning to the start of the school year, we ask ourselves if we are ready for the coming of the Son of Man. Or, are we deluding ourselves in thinking that day will never come? When it does, it comes like a thief in the night. Brace yourself!



#### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

There will come a time for each of us to pass on from this life. In all likelihood it’s not a topic we discuss much. Most of us live our lives in anticipation of future events, making plans, and carrying on our way. Especially now in

the modern world when the science of medicine and the pace of technology has improved day-to-day life a great deal, it seems there is nothing we cannot solve. And yet, tragedy still strikes. Death and loss come. There is the pain of losing someone we love. And at that point we might imagine all we wish we had said or expressed.



The gospel passage today reminds us that we all will ultimately face our own end. But the Paschal Mystery tells us that after death there is new life. It is not the same, but it will be transformed. Even so, our current life can end in a moment, coming “like a thief in the night.” We are advised to be on guard, to watch, to act in a way that we will be ready for that day. Where is our treasure? There too is our heart.

This coming Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day. We are privileged to gather for two celebrations of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

- St. Paul lifts up for us Abraham, our Ancestor in Faith, as a role model for our own trust in God. Who are the spiritual ancestors who have built up your faith?
- Abraham goes forth from his homeland and family to new land God will reveal to him. Has there been a time in your life when you left all that you knew to embark on a different path? What sustained you through that experience?
- We do not know the hour or the day when the Son of Man will come or when we will go to meet the Son of Man. How are you exercising vigilance in preparation for this moment?
- Jesus tells us “Gird your loins and light your lamps.” How might we spiritually respond to these commands?



The next Strategic Planning Meeting takes place this coming Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. A group of parishioners representing the parish’s cultural diversity has joined the Leadership of the parish: Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council, and Finance Council, to help chart the course of the parish over the next five years. This process follows the vision given in Fr. James Mallon’s book, “Divine Renovation: Moving The Parish From Maintenance to Mission.”

### ***Church Vandalism***

During the past year the Church has experienced three separate episodes of vandalism. A total of five windows and one glass door have been shot out by persons unknown using either a BB or

Pellet gun. All the damage has been located on the West and South portions of the Church closest to Contra Loma Blvd. All of these episodes have been reported to the Antioch Police Department for documentation purposes.

To limit future damage, we are covering all windows and doors on the West and South walls of the Church with clear protective Plexiglass panels. These panels will also help to protect the Stained Glass Panels that adorn the Sanctuary and will provide additional thermal insulation for efficiency.



### ***Backpack Drive Thank You***

A sincere thank you to all who so generously supported the parish's 11th Annual Backpack Drive in support of our adopted Catholic school, St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. Your donations of nearly 80 backpacks packed with school supplies along with a large quantity of miscellaneous supplies were delivered on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> by **David Costanza, Carole Miller and Vicki & Brian McCoy**.

Principal Joe Siino shared some exciting news about the first major remodel of the school in 70 years. Over the summer, major construction has taken place thanks to a grant from Shea Homes. The work includes classroom, cafeteria and restroom renovations, technology improvements, a new STEM Lab and

some site work. As a result, school doesn't start until August 21<sup>st</sup> this year.



### ***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 25<sup>th</sup> and return on September 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.



Our parish is blessed with a significant number of volunteers who help in a variety of ways with various aspects of supporting and maintaining the parish. Our thanks to those who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Adaugo Nnaji, Jean Rogers, Carole Miller, Alfred Madoshi, Reno & Thelma Benasfre, Mercy Osborne, Al Cosce, Angela Bueno, and Jun Bajet.**

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



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.

*From Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P. and  
The Interfaith Peace Project*



“NOT ONE MORE”  
August 5, 2019

We, here at The Interfaith Peace Project, were more than gratified that many people gathered in Washington, DC to protest the Government’s inaction in the wake of growing gun violence. They chanted what must become the mantra for our time, “Not one more!” The incomprehensible inaction of the Administration and the Congress is no less than permission to resort to violence in order to redress grievances. But the situation is much worse.

The Interfaith Peace Project has long noted that violent speech is a serious justice issue. How we speak about an issue is as important as the issue about which we speak. The events of the past few days, in Gilroy, CA, El Paso, TX, and Dayton, OH, to mention a few, sound the alarm that our tolerance of hate speech as free speech has finally escalated into full-blown domestic terrorism. In fact, there have been more mass shootings in the United State this year than there are days so far this year. Something must be done and it must be done now.

We need to stop thinking that hate speech is free speech. No one has the

right to harm or destroy another person’s life. The loaded mouth is as dangerous as a loaded gun. Governmental officials people for the sake of political expediency. The rhetoric of the President is unacceptable and must be condemned by anyone and everyone who claims any sense of humanity or decency. People of color, women, asylum seekers, immigrants, Muslims, people of diverse genders or sexual orientations, and anyone deemed unfit by this President have been demeaned, insulted, and threatened. Amends must be made. We call on the Administration to formally apologize and support legislation that will begin to repair the damage done.

A quick comparison of the President’s political speeches and the language used by White Nationalist Domestic Terrorists reveals a striking similarity. We pray to God that the President does not actually believe what he has said at so many rallies across the Country. We pray to God that the silence of so many in Congress does not reflect indifference. But what are we to think if the hate speech continues and the indifference does not lead to action

The time has come (long ago) for us as a people to cope with the rise of White Nationalism that has been fueled by the corrosive leadership of the President and the inaction of the Congress. We must not allow the hate of the White Nationalist to co-opt our religions, our political order, or our cultural and social lives.

The Interfaith Communities must rise up in solidarity to secure the human rights of all peoples in the name of decency, justice, and humanity.

We lament the violence. We reach out to the victims and their families. We raise our voices in solidarity with those demanding justice, "Not one more!"

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P. with the Board of Directors  
The Interfaith Peace Project

