

For The Bulletin Of August 18, 2019



THE 20TH SUNDAY IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

Christians are so familiar with “peace on earth” as a tagline of Christianity that today’s gospel can be something of a shock to the system. The angels sang “Peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14), and the cry of the crowds upon Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem will be “blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest” (Luke 19:38). So, it sounds strange today to hear Jesus saying that He is *not* bringing peace but division.

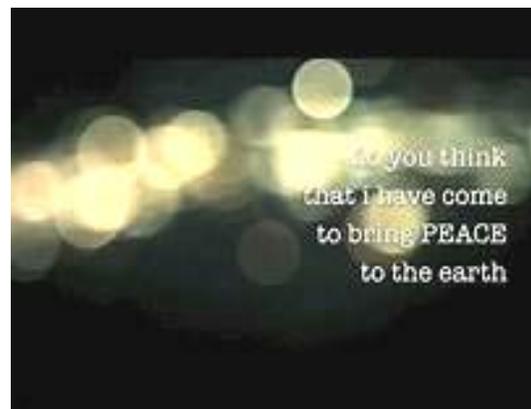
But then, upon a closer reading of the gospel of Luke we do hear inklings of this theme. As an infant, Jesus is said by Simeon to be “destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel” (Luke 2:34). Simeon continues by saying that Mary will be pierced with a sword (Luke 2:35). Moreover, early Christianity was perceived by the Romans and others as we would consider a cult today. No self-respecting Roman wanted their children to be caught up in this Judean “superstition” as they called it.

And those who became Christian often pulled away from their families, forming

new bonds with other Christians, whom they considered a new family. So given that background, the idea that Jesus brought division might be seen in a different light. The peace that the Christians experienced was with one another, not the peace the world gives. And that peace might have come at the price of family divisions who did not understand this new way of life.

Christianity has been so domesticated today, with the culture empowering it and supporting it, that we have little experiential sense of what the early Christians encountered simply to be Christian. Any perceived impingement of religious freedom in the Western world today can scarcely be compared to what the first generations of Christians experienced, or Christians in the Middle East or Africa today, when some were and are being executed for their faith.

Though we share many common elements of our faith with those who have gone before us, the divisions they experienced in the early years seem distant. Still, when we take seriously the gospel message and live it boldly, we may be shunned or avoided by those we considered friends or family.



Living The Paschal Mystery

Pardoxically, the peace that Jesus brings comes served with division. It's as though the poison is within the antidote. Living as a disciple of Jesus means that we will lose company with some, perhaps even family and friends. Disciples are no mere "go along to get along" kind of people. Faith in Jesus, service to the poor, and working for justice are essential elements of discipleship. Others may have a vested interest in the status quo, and do not want things overturned or upended. But for a serious follower of Jesus, for a disciple who follows in His footsteps, opposition can be expected. Jesus Himself lost His life in a confrontation with evil. Many of His followers down to the present day have lost their lives as well, or faced imprisonment, persecution, and hostility. "Good News" preached to the poor, the outcast, and the downtrodden, can sound eerily like sedition or revolution. When we stand on the side of the persecuted and marginalized we should not be surprised to face persecution and marginalization ourselves.

Every gospel we hear has the power to raise serious questions in each of us. How do you hear today's gospel concerning the division Jesus brings?

- Like Jeremiah, when in life have you taken an unpopular position because you felt it was the right thing to do? Where did you find the fortitude and perseverance to remain firm in your conviction?
- The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of the "great...cloud of witnesses" that surround us. How do you experience this cloud of witnesses in the life of faith?

- Similar to the words of Jesus in today's gospel, St. Catherine of Siena is quoted as saying "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." How is God calling you right now to be more faithful to who you are truly meant to be?
- Where do you see division within your family, within our parish, within our community? Where is Jesus within this division?



The Floral Arrangement before the Altar today is placed to The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of **Dan O'Connor** by his wife, Dorothy O'Connor and the Nelms and Barnes Families.



About Liturgy: The Sign of Peace

Who doesn't like the good feeling that comes with being part of a community? However, Christian community must go deeper than good feelings. The heart of our faith, Jesus, requires that we lay down our lives even for those who would hate us – even for those whom we

do not love or like. For God does not save individuals one by one: God saves us as a people. What we express in the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ is not a “me-and-Jesus” relationship, for we cannot be a Eucharistic people without dying to our own needs, preferences, likes, and dislikes. And our faith cannot be swayed by our ever-changing feelings toward others. Only a faith that is grounded in the faith of Christ will be able to transcend our selfish need for what feels good in order to seek the good of others, even if it means our own suffering.

In the Sign of Peace, we rehearse having this mind of Christ and showing that sacrificial kind of love. The rubrics (directives) of the current Roman Missal say that this sign “expresses peace, communion, and charity” (#128). For it to be an authentic sign, we are asked to seek daily to share peace with those with whom we have not been peaceful. If we dare to show that our sharing in Communion is credible, then we must seek the ones we have harmed, the ones we have judged, and the ones whom we think are unworthy of God’s love, and offer a sign of reconciliation with them. IF we cannot see the stranger, the foreigner, the outcast, and sinner as one with us and in need of God’s mercy just as we are, then our Sign of Peace is not a sign of charity but an empty sign.

On this day when the gospel discomforts the comfortable, we need to remember the meaning of the Sign of Peace and how it prepares our heart to authentically share in the Eucharist.



Today during our 10:00 A.M. Eucharist, we will honor Alfredo and Maribel Cabrero on the Occasion of their Thirty-fifth Anniversary of Marriage. Congratulations and may God richly bless you for many more years of happiness and the best of health!



Parish Tour To France

Next year, August 25th – September 6, I will be leading a tour to Paris, France. Our itinerary will take us to famous cathedrals, museums, palaces, Lourdes, the Beaches of Normandy, the American Cemetery, French restaurants and wine. Please call the office to leave your name and contact information to be placed on the list. I am able to take 40 people. I hope to have the pricing of the tour this coming week. Our trip has been planned by **Linda Grelli of Black Diamond Travel**. A flyer listing our itinerary and the pricing of the tour will be available soon.



...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.**

We are deeply indebted to all of our volunteers who do so much on a daily basis to help us with the mission of our parish: to those who clean the sanctuary each Saturday morning: **Adaugo Nnaji, Jun Bajet, Al Cosce, Rose Salamanca, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, and Emilia Freking.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall each week: **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.**



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.