

For The Bulletin Of 11 July 2021



The 15th Sunday In Summer's Ordinary Time

From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel

Jesus has not been deterred by His rejection at Nazareth and continues to teach among the surrounding villages, but now it is time to send the Twelve to do what He has been doing. When Jesus called these disciples, Mark described them as “those whom He wanted and they came to Him” to “be with Him” and He sent “forth to preach and have authority to drive out demons” (Mark 3:13-15); though they have been with Jesus as He taught, exorcised, and healed, and had experienced His rejection by His hometown synagogue, their main recorded response to Him has been the accusation of not caring much about them in the middle of the storm, and impatience with Him over the “interruption” of the hemorrhaging woman. But, for our consolation, Jesus is willing to work with flawed disciples, and still dates today to send out men and women like ourselves to be instruments of the healing power and authority of God. What we hear in this gospel is both challenging and consolation to Mark’s Christian community and every community that, through baptism, is called and sent on Jesus’ own mission.

Now the “see, judge, and act” apprenticeship of the Twelve is to be tested in their first mission. Equipped only with the authority of Jesus’ word and the memory of His example, the Twelve are sent out like their ancestors, with exodus urgency – with their walking staffs and sandals, for they are on a new and urgent journey to free enslaved bodies, hearts, and psyches as Jesus has done. They are to travel in pairs, with respect for the Jewish tradition that required that the validity of witness must be verified by at least two people. There is to be no dallying or packing bags with things that are not really needed and will only become an intolerable burden along the way. Their missionary survival kit consists of the authority of Jesus and His word, the providence of God, and the hospitality of those who will open their heart and homes to the Twelve. The one tunic they are allowed may also be symbolic of the single-mindedness that Jesus expects of those who, as Paul wrote to the Galatians, “have clothed yourselves with Christ” through baptism. No matter what the quality of the hospitality offered to them, the disciples are to accept this and stay put. Searching for more congenial accommodation or company is not to be part of their journey. For people to welcome the Twelve, knowing that they have associated with the taboo, marginalized people, will spread the kingdom of compassion, and offer the possibilities of a welcoming re-entry into religious and social relationships for the outcasts and shunned who have been healed.

If they are not well received, the disciples are to leave, not responding with any harsh words, but merely with the Jewish symbolic gesture of shaking off from their feet the dust of the unwelcoming place, as Jews did when returning to Israel from foreign soil. All that the inhospitable household was left with was insubstantial dust, rather than the

Word of God. We all need to be honestly and humbly discerning about when to stay and when to leave a particular mission, “and take upon the mystery of things, as if we were God’s spies,” said King Lear in the Shakespearean tragedy *King Lear*. In the Christian sense, we are to be “god’s spies,” reconnoitering the possibilities for announcing the reigning presence of God in human lives in our own situations. And we must be prepared to fail, as Jesus and His followers failed, but without turning such failure into a career of self-pity.



In the first reading Amos retells how God called him from being a shepherd to “prophesying to my people Israel.” When in your life of faith have you felt called to speak out against injustice or oppression?

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul writes, “In Christ we are also chosen.” What does it mean to you to consider yourself “chosen” by God?

In the gospel, Jesus sends the disciples out “two by two.” Who are your closest collaborators in living the life of discipleship?

Jesus instructs the disciples to only bring the bare necessities with them on their mission. How are you being called to let go of the “non-essentials” you as follow Jesus?



About Liturgy: Take, Bless, Break, Share

The eucharistic liturgy can be described using four words that depict the fourfold activity in each celebration of Holy Eucharist: “Take, Bless, Break, Share.” These words describe Jesus Himself when He feeds the multitudes, when He eats the Last Supper the night before His crucifixion, and when He stops to dine with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. So it happens at Eucharist: the presider takes the gifts of bread and wine offered by the community, blesses (consecrates) them, breaks them, and shares them. While some of the significance is lost with the usual practice of distributing small hosts and pouring the wine into separate cups before consecration, the pattern is undeniably there.

That pattern, further, is repeated by Christ with our very selves. We might believe it to be a conscious choice of our own will to arise and make our way to church on Sunday morning – and it is – but it is truly Christ Himself Who gathers, Who takes us into that house of God that we might ourselves be blessed, broken, and shared with the world in need, sent to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord.

“Broken?” you might ask. “How are we broken at Eucharist? Aren’t we there to be made whole, to be made holy?” So we are, but the Lord also expects of us a certain vulnerability. Perhaps we come to Eucharist already broken by some of our “real life” experiences during the week, perhaps not.

But in either and any case, we must allow ourselves, by the prayers, the Scripture, the music, by the multivalent presence of Christ Himself to be ripped apart to be made whole again. Does not the word “surrender” contain the word “rend?” “Rend not your garments, rend your hearts! Turn back your lives to me” says the perhaps familiar Lenten hymn “Led by the Spirit.”

Each Liturgy is a chance for us to enter into that truest of conversion moments and, like the apostles in today’s gospel, be sent out to proclaim, heal, and build the reign of God, in Christ’s name.



About Doors – The Jesus Door

Think about all of the any doors you might pass through on a given day: front and back doors, sliding doors, revolving doors, barn doors, garage doors, car doors, screen doors, wooden doors...Ponder now Jesus as a door, *as the* door. Speaking of us, the faithful, as sheep in a pen, He tells us, “I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture” (John 10:9). Jesus is the door.

Doors often figure prominently in church architecture and liturgy for the very same reasons. The door to the church is a gateway to heaven itself, or at least a foretaste of it. If the physical door allows one entry into the physical church building, the baptismal font, perhaps near those doors, is itself another door into the church of God, built of living stones. Candidates in RCIA

are met at those doors, as is a casket, holding the remains of a loved one who in baptism died with Christ, hoping one day to share His glory. “Practically, of course, the doors secure the building from the weather and exterior dangers, expressing by their solid strength the safe harbor that lies within” (Build of Living Stones, #97).

As we enter the church by such a door, “taken” by Christ, we are also sent out, “shared” through it, to be Christ’s hands and feet, to in turn bring more people to the church, to the door, to salvation itself. Salvation door, kingdom door, the Jesus door.



Dear Father Robert and Members of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish,

Thank you for your generous donation to St. Vincent de Paul Society of Antioch. This blessing will be passed on to our neighbors and friends in Christ.

With gratitude and blessings to everyone,
Linda, Secretary



We continue to be grateful to our faithful volunteers that arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the sanctuary and bathrooms for the weekend and the week ahead: **Rose Salamanca, Al Cosce, Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Jean Rogers, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne and Steve Rojek.**

...to our **Knights of Columbus** for sponsoring hospitality following last Sunday's liturgies.

...to our Office Volunteers: **Alicia Perez, Bev Iacona, and Melodye Costanza.**

...to **Lisa Lombardo** who faithfully tapes our liturgy each week for those who cannot be with us in person and uploads it to our You Tube Channel.

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation

From the Center for Action and Contemplation



Week Twenty-Seven: Great Themes of Scripture:
New Testament

Luke's Good News: God's Justice

For Luke, while the ultimate meaning of the good news is still the nearness of God's kingdom, he says it differently. He speaks

not of God's kingdom but of God's justice, and he especially emphasizes the privileged position of the poor. Luke's Gospel is sometimes called the "Gospel of the poor" or the "Gospel of mercy." He stresses the freedom and liberation which come from living simply and humbly, in right relationship with others, under the reign of God. He sees Jesus as fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 61: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

When we think of justice, we ordinarily think of a balance: if the scales tip too much on the side of wrong, justice is needed to set things right. But God's justice does not make sense to human ideas of justice! We define justice in terms of what we've done, what we've earned, and what we've merited. Our image of justice is often some form of retribution, which we then project onto God. When most people say, "We want justice!" they normally mean that bad deeds should be punished or that they want vengeance. But Jesus says that's simply not the case with God. The issue is how much can we trust God? How much can we stand in the flow of God's infinite love? How much can we let God love us in our worst moments?

What is God's justice? It is certainly not our Western image of a blindfolded woman standing with a scale and weighing the different sides. God's justice is delivered simply by God being true to God's nature. And what is God's nature? Love. God is love, so God's justice is in fact total, steadfast love, total unconditional giving of love. (Many of us now call this "restorative justice" instead of retributive justice.)

Brian McLaren reflects on Luke's Gospel and God's justice through the stories of Mary and Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancies [Luke 1]. He understands these stories as invitations to join an adventure with God in which another world is possible:

What if their purpose is to challenge us to blur the line between what we think is possible and what we think is impossible? Could we ever come to a time when swords would be beaten into plowshares? When the predatory people in power—the lions—would lie down in peace with the vulnerable and the poor—the lambs? When God's justice would flow like a river—to the lowest and most “god-forsaken” places on Earth? When the brokenhearted would be comforted and the poor would receive good news? If you think, *Never—it's impossible*, then maybe you need to think again. Maybe it's not too late for something beautiful to be born. Maybe the present moment is pregnant with possibilities we can't see or even imagine. [1]



Let us not be satisfied with giving financial assistance; money is not everything. The poor need more than financial assistance; the poor need the work of our hands and the love of our hearts; love - the abundant love of God alive in you and me - is the beautiful expression of our Christian faith.

And this is exactly what we are trying to accomplish. By helping families down on their luck with the generosity of the Food Bank of Contra Costa-Solano, we are merely

a helping hand. Yes, people are truly relying on our help to get them through hard times, one week at a time. I hear it too many times from someone in their car, thanking us for just being there and helping them to survive from one day to the next. The small amount of food that they receive from the food bank is truly needed and deeply appreciated.

We helped approximately 155 families last Friday, in 93-degree heat and no one complained. We also shortened the time of the distribution from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. After that time, very few arrived to receive assistance so the food bank said to discontinue the distribution at 4:30 p.m.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who come regularly to help with the distribution of all the items that the food bank brings for us to give.

Werner 🏠

***Justice Corner by Carolyn Krantz,
Pastoral Associate***

The Gospel of Jesus sending out the twelve leaves us with several lessons today. First of all, it tells us how we should approach ministry. Do not take stuff with you; depend on the Lord and His servants to supply what you need. This is hard for us who are so used to accumulating consumer goods to live in simplicity. Think of the migrants coming to the border. They barely have any belongings. They come only with the intention of starting a new life. We need to take stock of what we have and share it with others.

Many years ago, when I read the passage about “shake the dust from your feet,” it appealed to me. When I encountered stubborn church folks, I would move my feet: stomp, stomp, stomp. It helped

dispense with the anger. I felt toward those who valued legalities over love. I think Jesus said a lot about that to the Pharisees.

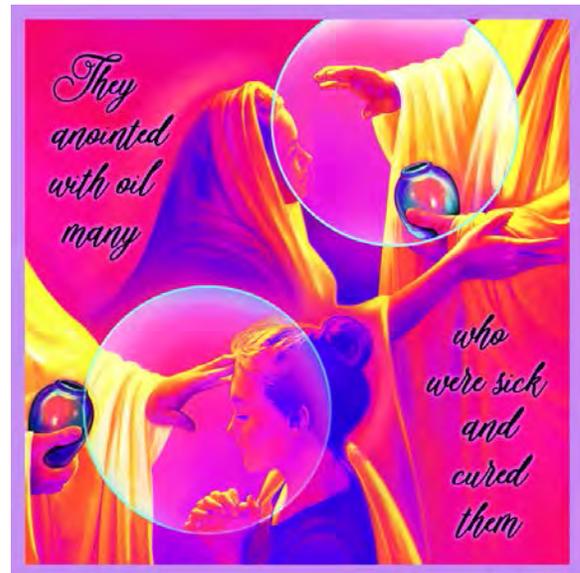
The Gospel also calls us to welcome people. One does not know if they are Jesus coming to meet you. There is a poem by Rumi called the Guest House, which emphasizes the same point. When someone knocks on your door, open it with joy for it may be Jesus calling. Serve them from your best stores. Be grateful that they have blessed you with their presence. This is not easy if they are a cantankerous visitor, but try it nevertheless.

The first reading gives us the story of Amos, called to prophesy to the Kings court. The priest and courtly people tried to dismiss him. I am reminded of the Faith in Action folks who are “prophesying” to the members of Congress as we speak. They too, encounter people who do not want to listen. I hear lots of “stomping” going on in the halls of Congress these days! But as people of the Gospel, we are called to preach love to those who would condemn others.

Lastly, we are reminded in the Epistle that in Christ we have every spiritual blessing. It would be a good exercise this week to count our spiritual blessings. We have life. We have loved ones. We have spiritual insights that guide us. We have the Eucharist to feed us. We are chosen by Him and given the “riches of His grace He lavished upon us.” He taught us how to live and how to suffer for others. He sealed us with the promise of His Spirit which makes us God's possession. How truly blessed we are!

So this week we have a lot of spiritual exercises to practice: living in simplicity, stomping our feet at those who do not welcome the Gospel of love, welcoming all comers and nourishing them, counting our

spiritual blessings. May it be a blessed and holy week full of grace and truth!



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Expansion Update

July 9, 2021

REPLACING THE TILE ROOF: this is the other major project scheduled in conjunction with the Expansion Project. Work commenced on July 5 with the removal of the old tiles. Given the cost of lumber, we received positive news regarding the existing plywood underlayment - it's in good shape and no dry rot was noted. The exposed conduit on the roof has been covered and the installation of the new fabric roofing underlayment is complete. Removal of old gutters is also complete. Bundles of new shingles were delivered and placed on the roof in preparation for installation. Installation of the HydroStop® roofing at the interface of the old roof and the new parapet has also started. This reroofing project should be completed in less than 15 days. The plan is to eventually install solar panels on the roof to stabilize the parish's energy costs.

The third progress payment of \$33,221 to Banis Restaurant Design has been paid. The Oliver & Co. third progress invoice of \$183,967 for the June construction is awaiting diocesan approval.

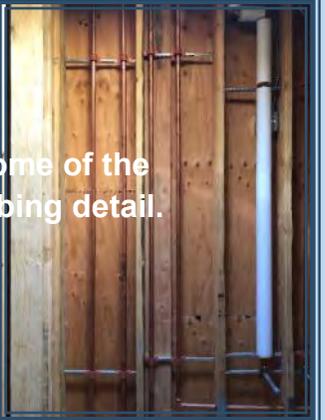




New Serving Window



A Look at some of the interior plumbing detail.





St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Food Pantry

Where: 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565

When: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Requirements to receive emergency food assistance:

- **Current ID** showing residence in Contra Costa County*
- For families of 6+, please bring medical cards of each family member
- Food pick-up is once every 30 days per person
- **Every first and third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am** the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano distributes food from Food Bank vans in the SVdP parking lot.
Please contact the Food Bank to learn more at 855-309-3663 or info@FoodBankccs.org
- *If you live outside Contra Costa County, please contact your local food bank for information on emergency assistance



*The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County*

SVdP is a proud **partner**
with **the Food Bank**
of Contra Costa
& Solano

Our Emergency Food
Pantry provides food
to people in need
Monday through
Friday

The Emergency Food
Pantry provides food
to 2,800 individuals
and 800 households
each year

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

2210 Gladstone Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-439-5060

svdp-cc.org

Open Monday - Friday
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM



HOPE
Lives Here

Our Mission

Catholic Charities East Bay works with youth, children, and families to promote resilience, strengthen families, and pursue safety and justice for all.

What we do

We provide **housing**, **legal immigration**, and **mental health** services to people of all cultures, ethnicities, backgrounds, and faiths.

Our Programs

Housing: we provide low-income families and seniors facing eviction and homelessness with back rent, security deposits, and utility assistance in Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties.

Immigration Legal Services: We help clients earn lawful working status and follow a path to citizenship through Legal Consultations, Family-Based Visa Petitions, Permanent Residency Application and Renewal, U.S. Citizenship, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Unaccompanied Minors, and more.

Mental Health:

Experience Hope in Schools and Communities – We work with students, schools, and community groups serving young people, to provide culturally responsive approaches to overcome the challenges presented by pervasive violence at schools in Oakland Unified and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts.

Day Star – We provide education and mentoring to connect youth who are surviving or are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) to adult mentors, to increase awareness, and to decrease demand.

Crisis Response Services – We provide grief counseling and family support services to surviving family/friends of loved ones lost to homicide in Oakland.

Family Support Services – We work with parents and children referred to us by Contra Costa County Children & Family Service to strengthen families, improve child well-being, and help children stay safely with their families in their home.

TRUE Academy – We help young people (ages 14 to 18) within the Alameda County juvenile justice system learn strategies to safely and productively think and respond in situations of stress, fear, and conflict.

Founded in 1935 to serve people who reside within the Diocese of Oakland.

An affiliate of Catholic Charities, USA, one of the largest social services networks in the country

Our Locations

Oakland- 433 Jefferson St
Richmond- 217 Harbour Way
Concord- 2120 Diamond Blvd #220

Contact Us

(510)579-3100

Our Impact in 2020

- **36,000** people received essential services.
- **914** households received housing assistance.
- **23,570** people were provided food during our food distributions.
- **463** people were helped enter the path to citizenship.
- **10,000** people helped with \$500 gift cards totaling \$5 million in assistance (DRAI, funded by the State of California).
- **54** families received support services who had lost loved ones due to homicide.
- **84** families received in-depth services who were referred to us by Contra Costa County Family and Children Services.