

Parish Newsletter For 29 August 2021



THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel

Today's gospel proclaims an encounter of Jesus with some of His opponents, named as "Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem." Jerusalem was the center of formal opposition to Jesus by those who were fearful of the loss of personal power, overly concerned with the externals of religious appearances, or devoted to censorious inquiry into minor deviations from the established way of doing things religious while ignoring more serious matters. In this sense, every religious group, in the present as well as in the past, has those who "come from Jerusalem" – self-appointed custodians of the orthodox faith.

Traditions are necessary for the identity of any group, both secular (think of sports teams) and religious. As Eugene LaVerdiere, Scripture Scholar, writes: "Traditions are tenacious and important, but they are not absolute, and their value can be questioned. Traditions spring from a particular history. They nourish a community's ideals, and they in turn are nourished by those ideals. When a life context that inspired a set of traditions dies or is drastically altered, traditions it once

sustained become lifeless and meaningless. That does not mean they are immediately abandoned" (*The Beginning of the Gospel*).

The life context of the early Markan church was being drastically altered by the numbers of Gentiles who were entering into the Christian community. Tension inevitably arose between these new converts and the Christians whose faith had been nourished in the rich soil of Judaism. Many of the latter felt that the traditions they held dear, and that were reconcilable with following Jesus, had been carelessly trampled down or uprooted by the Gentile Christians to whom such traditions meant little or nothing.

On the other hand, the Gentile Christians felt coerced by what, to them, were meaningless laws and rituals. To reconcile both groups in baptismal freedom and love was an ongoing challenge for community leaders. The "tradition of the elders," rightly understood, were not an attempt to bury the commands of God under suffocating trivia, but rather to aerate the whole of Jewish life with mindfulness of the people's identity and responsibilities as God's people. For the sake of the non-Jewish readers, Mark enumerates some of the traditional ritual of washing that are observed.

Jesus responds to the Pharisees' challenge about the behavior of His disciples with a quotation from the prophet Isaiah, addressing them as "hypocrites." Out of the strong Jewish prophetic tradition of self-criticism, Isaiah spoke of religious practices that were on the lips but not in the heart as a superficial and external playacting at true religion. The Pharisees have fallen into the same religious trap of absolutizing their own human traditions of outward observance, not the commands of God. What should be washed is not so much pots and pans and hands, but their own heart. External rituals

convert it. Later, they all get together to report how things had gone.

The priest begins: “When I found the bear, I read to him from the catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his First Communion.”

“I found a bear by the stream,” says the minister, “and preached God’s holy Word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him.”

These two both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. “Looking back,” he says, “maybe I shouldn’t have started with the circumcision.”

It’s a pretty good joke, I think, but it also has a relevant point for those of us who evangelize, especially via the liturgy, in different times and places. From the very beginning, our missionary efforts recognized that step one was always to enter into a human relationship with the people and culture being visited, and to make sure their human needs were being met. If those with whom we hope to share the Good News don’t know us and trust us as friends, any words we share will be hollow and distrusted. If those with whom we hope to share the Good News are hungry, poorly clothed, or need shelter, these basic human needs will preclude them from hearing any other message.

In the joke, I wouldn’t say that the priest or the minister start from a place of relationship and trust, but the rabbi (in this case), seems to have just jumped in with the rituals of his faith. The scripture passages for this Sunday are focused on observances of laws, and all too often, we can get caught up in how well the minutiae of each rubric of the liturgy is being followed. How much

time do we spend meeting the needs and building relationships, and how much time do we spend on catechesis, Bible study, worship, and the like? It’s likely that many of those we meet have “needs” not related to hunger or housing insecurity, but rather to relationship: being understood, sensing one’s own belonging. Said another way, people won’t care what you know until they know you care. This remains true for any of us in the church – the most missionary, evangelistic thing we can do as church is to let others know we care. Tertullian, in the second and third centuries, wrote that the early Christians’ lives of love were so pronounced that others would declare, “See how they love one another.” So may it be for us today.



Today we join **Rick and Linda Flood** in thanking God for the 50 years with which they have been blessed in marriage. Congratulations! On behalf of all of us, I wish you God’s richest blessings, the best of health, and the deepening of your love for all the years yet to be. Thank you for your example of faithful, committed, dedicated love and service in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

...to our faithful church and bathroom cleaners: **Jean Rogers, Carole Miller, Al Cosce, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our Cantors: **Alicia Perez, Maryann Peddicord, David and Susannah Nelson, and Doreen Manalac** who led us in our sung prayer at each liturgy last weekend.

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

...to our parking lot security team, who also provides security for funerals: **Jose Perez, David Simpson, Tony Gumina, Steve Rojek, and Don Benson.**



The Diocesan Mission Alignment Project
Last Fall, the Bishop brought all the clergy together for a meeting at St. Perpetua Parish in Lafayette, along with his executive council, to begin addressing the immediate and future needs of the Church of Oakland. There has been a steady decline in membership, church attendance, and sacramental services, along with financial revenue over the years, and even more so as

a result of the Covid pandemic. The outcome of that meeting created The Mission Alignment Project to assess the strengths and needs of the Diocese now and for the foreseeable future. The Project is overseen by both Laity and Clergy.

At a recent meeting, those in attendance took the “Disciple-maker Survey” to evaluate the gifts, talents, and strengths that we bring to evangelizing, the work of making “missionary disciples” of all of us.

This coming Tuesday, our Parish Representative, Susannah Nelson, and I will be taking the survey in anticipation of the survey being offered to every member of our parish and the entire Diocese. The results will assist the Task Force in evaluating the resources of the Diocese in terms of buildings, grounds, and people to do the work of proclaiming and building the Kingdom of God in our Diocese.

I will keep you posted on this project and its work going forward and as a plan is proposed and recommendations made.

Justice Corner by Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate

During the time of COVID, we have been told frequently to wash our hands. In Jewish law, they had similar restrictions for health reasons. This is where the Gospel starts today. “Why don't your disciples observe hand washing,” the Pharisees ask? But hand washing is not the point of the story. Jesus was looking into their hearts and saw that they liked to point out the small things, but did not look further to see the motivations for their remarks. What defiles a person are selfish motivations. The Pharisees did not look at the good deeds Jesus had worked, but tried to pin Him on the small stuff.

When I was growing up, I was very

scrupulous. I used to worry about all the small things I did wrong and my confessions were endlessly repetitive. It took me into adulthood with a good spiritual director to realize that spiritual life was not about hand washing, but about examining intentions for my actions. Where was I being prideful? Where were my actions motivated by what I could get out of it? Where was I not trusting in God's love?

Jesus looked into the hearts and needs of the people he encountered. He saw the pain and suffering of humanity and where He could, He cured the sick and encouraged the disciples to understand the law of God written in our hearts. He listened to the higher law written in the heart of the Creator, His Father. This is "the word of truth" by which we are born again in Baptism. We welcome this word by focusing our attention into the depths of our hearts and seeing what motivation really lies there. Where is your "focus of attention?" Is it only on what's good for you?

The Epistle says that the religion (spirituality) "which is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." In other words, one's focus of attention must be outward to help others. In Jewish society, orphans and widows were the poorest of the poor. They were women and children with no one to look after them. Is my focus of attention on those lost souls in society who have no one to care for them?

We belong to a church whose laws have often focused our attention on smaller things while missing the bigger picture. Even though we know that the two most important laws are to love God with our whole heart and soul and our neighbor as ourselves, we often get distracted by smaller rules. What

good is it to have Eucharist that makes us one if women are excluded from decision-making bodies? What good is it to fight abortion laws if we are not also willing to work for gun regulation that kills so many of our citizens? Today's Gospel is a challenge to look deep within our hearts and check out our motivations. Are we busy condemning others and not checking out our own hearts? Let us see where we are disregarding God's commandment and clinging to human tradition or the "it's always been this way" crowd. We are coming into a new world where all of us will have to look deep within our hearts to find what actions God wants us to undertake. When change comes, we must ask, "Is this of God or of human design?" What is God asking of us in this new and different world?

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St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Youth Organization

St. Ignatius of Antioch Lions invites BOYS & GIRLS 3rd through 8th Grade to participate in our CYO Program.

BASKETBALL

3rd through 8th graders are invited to sign-up starting August 5, through September 1, 2021. For more information contact Brenda at 510-812-6670. To sign up go to <http://st-ignatius-of-antioch-cyo.sportngin.com>

Children's Faith Formation



Sharing Our Faith From Shelli Daviess, Faith Formation Coordinator

Faith Formation Catechists are the heart of our faith. You do not need to be a certified catechist to teach. Please consider sharing your faith with a group of children this year. In-Person classes begin September 22 and 23, 2021. All grades are taught one time per week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., from September 22, 2021 through May 5, 2022.

The prayer of St. Francis says, “it is in giving that we receive,” ask any catechist and they will assure you that you will get more than you give. St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Faith Formation will provide catechists with resources and training that help people become successful. The main goal of a catechist is the growth of faith for the children they work with.

If you would like additional information about being a catechist for grades 1-8 or for our confirmation program for grades 9-12, please contact Shelli Daviess, Faith Formation Coordinator at 925-778-0768 ex. 305 or email me at:

daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net

Proverbs 22:6, Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.



FOOD BANK
of Contra Costa and Solano

“Joy is very infectious. We will never know just how much good a simple smile can do. Be faithful in little things. Smile at the people who cross your path. You have a beautiful smile. Don't waste it. Live beautifully. Smile at life. Smile everywhere you go. Smile at everyone you meet.”

Yes, Mother Teresa had life figured out for us. It does not cost a penny to show someone your happy face, in fact it may even cause others to smile back at you for no reason at all, and that warms the soul and melts the worry from your heart. So next time you are around strangers, try a smile, you may be surprised how much good it does not only to others, but also for yourself.

I cannot thank the folks at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano enough for all that they do for the community, especially ours. In all my years as a volunteer, I have not seen that many people coming forward to volunteer their time and talent as here at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church.

Truly dedicated ordinary people come forward and give of their time just to help others who are so desperately in need of the free food that we distribute every first and third Friday of every month.

A smile truly goes a long way, not only here, but everywhere that we offer one to others.

Thank you all,

Werner 🏠



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – RCIA

RCIA is a process open to all persons, 18 years and older, who genuinely seek, by God's grace, to live their lives in the Catholic faith. This program is a series of carefully planned stages, marked by liturgical rites in the presence of St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church community, in which new Catholics embark on and join us in a continuing and deepening conversion of faith and discipleship.

RCIA is open to adults, who have not been baptized, or who have been baptized but have not received Holy Communion or Confirmation.

In Person RCIA Classes begin on Monday, September 21, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Office.

Registration begins on Tuesdays, September 7 and 14 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Sundays, September 12 and 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Shelli Daviess, Faith Formation Coordinator, at 925-778-0768 ext. 305 or by email, daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net.

Expansion Update

August 27, 2021

Oliver and Co. and their subcontractors continue to make progress every week. Oliver's portion of the project is on schedule for a late October completion date. A sweat equity period will then commence which will include, among other tasks, installation of an 80 foot keystone retaining wall and landscaping restoration.

Stuccoing is complete and all of the exterior scaffolding has been removed providing a good view of the new construction. Exterior painting is scheduled for mid-September.

The final invoice in the amount of \$30,055. has been submitted to the parish from Banis Restaurant Design. The total includes \$6,700 associated with increases in stainless steel raw materials and a credit of \$2,891 (price reduction) for miscellaneous items. As with other expenditures, a request for payment will be submitted to the Diocese for approval early next week. Ten percent of the final payment will be withheld pending completion of the contract.

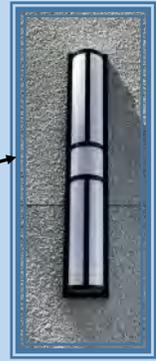
Preliminary design discussions have started to restore the landscaping in the back lawn area and the berm that were impacted by the construction. Restoration is the parish's responsibility, including associated costs.



West entrance under construction.

Architect's rendering of the same area.





Rear entrance to the parish hall (using the existing doors).

The opening at the right is the entry into the hall storage area. The janitor's mop sink and a storage cabinet for cleaning chemicals will be located inside along with a large storage area for tables and chairs.



Three pictures of the interior of the parish hall. Not quite ready to host one of our Social Events Committee's signature events. Will probably be ready for occupancy in January 2022.

As climate change intensifies, how might Laudato Si' guide community responses?

20 August 2021

by [Brian Roewe](#)



A vehicle navigates a flooded road Sept. 14, 2018, during Hurricane Florence in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The next year, the coastal city of Charleston experienced 89 days of flooding, nearly one every five days. Charleston's previous record, 58 times, was set in 2015. (CNS/Reuters/Randall Hill)

Flooding is a prevailing problem in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 2019, the Atlantic coastal city experienced 89 days of flooding, or [nearly one of every five days that year](#). That blew past the previous record of 58 times, set in 2015, and represented a dramatic shift from more than a half-century earlier, when in 1950 flooding events occurred roughly twice a year, according to a [recent study](#) by the coastal ocean science center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In some ways, it's no surprise that Charleston regularly floods — it sits only a

few feet above sea level, is next to an ocean and is surrounded rivers and tributaries. That makes it especially prone to storm surge from heavy rains and coastal storms, though flooding can also occur [on sunny days, too](#). The hazards are exacerbated by climate change, which is causing more intense storms and is also causing sea levels to rise, But that only partly explains the rise in flood events in Charleston, people involved in justice ministries said at a virtual workshop on Pope Francis' encyclical "*Laudato Si'*", on Care for Our Common Home." They point to development that has replaced critical marshlands with waterfront properties in one of the country's fastest-growing cities.

"If you build on that salt marsh, you're taking away that buffer from sea level rise, the buffer from floods, from storms as well as just a buffer in general," said Lee Ann Clements, a marine scientist and chair of the committee on integral ecology for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida.



Lee Ann Clements, bottom left, marine scientist and chair of the committee on integral ecology for the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, speaks during the virtual Laudato Si' workshop Aug. 17. The workshop featured Franciscan Sr. Ilia Delio and Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski, each of whom reflected on the pope's encyclical and how Catholics and others can respond to its message. (NCR screenshot)

"It's very easy for people to see that coastal environment, that waterfront property, as the

thing they want, as desirable. But to the detriment of the whole environment and to the detriment of the community," she said.

The flooding has also intensified the southern city's racial and economic gaps. Black and poor communities are located in areas most prone to flooding, but they are least likely to receive assistance, said Marina Lopez, a member of Charleston Area Justice Ministry who has worked with Latino communities in the Lowcountry.

"We never have enough money for the poor neighborhoods and the things that need to be done in those places. But we are discussing without any concern the money that we are going to spend to save the more affluent neighborhoods," she said.

The situation in Charleston was one of several environmental challenges identified during the [Laudato Si' workshop](#) Aug. 17. The event was organized by the Direct Action and Research Training Center, or DART Center, and co-sponsored by five Catholic dioceses, Allegany Franciscan Ministries and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The workshop featured Franciscan Sr. Ilia Delio and Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski, each of whom reflected on the pope's encyclical and how Catholics and others can respond to its message.

In July 2020, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development [awarded a \\$500,000 grant to the DART Center](#), which is made up of 28 multifaith justice ministry organizations in the Southeast and Midwest, to put the principles of *Laudato Si'* into action in Southeast communities facing hazards from climate change. Seventeen DART-affiliated groups are building care for creation teams as part of the initiative,

with the goal of identifying climate impacts in each community and mobilizing faith organizations to lobby for local policies to address them fairly and equitably.

The *Laudato Si'* workshop was the kickstart of a series of listening sessions planned for the coming months that seek to engage as many as 1,000 people in each of the 17 locations to continue discussing local impacts of climate change and solutions that benefit all people, particularly those who are poor and historically disadvantaged.

Josette Josue, a parishioner of St. James Catholic Church in North Miami, described how property values and rents are [soaring in the Little Haiti neighborhood](#) — located near the center of the city and therefore farther from the coast and rising sea levels — and forcing people to abandon a neighborhood where they've lived for decades.

"Haitian residents are moving out while wealthy communities are moving in," she said.

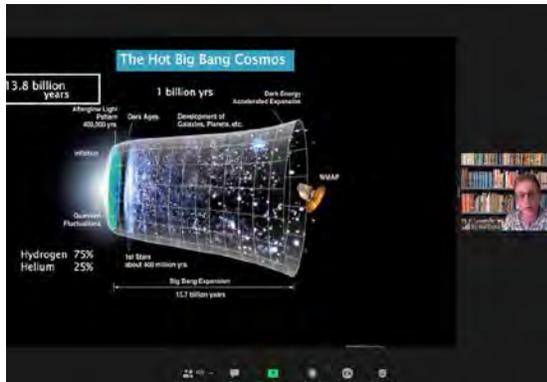
Wenski said that for Floridians concerned about rising seas, "the news was not good" in the [recent report on the state of the global climate](#) from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The archbishop said that a core message from Francis in *Laudato Si'* is that addressing the environmental challenges facing the planet begins with restoring broken relationships with God, with neighbor and with the Earth itself.

"We are all interconnected, and if we're going to solve the problems that beset us we have to recognize that," Wenski said.

Delio, the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University, said part of the problem is that humanity has become disconnected from the earth.

"We have built a very complex world for ourselves at a very rapid pace. And so we did not learn how to really live in this world adequately," she said.



Franciscan Sr. Ilia Delio speaks during the virtual Laudato Si' workshop Aug. 17. "We have built a very complex world for ourselves at a very rapid pace. And so we did not learn how to really live in this world adequately," she said. (NCR screenshot)

That has led to a selfish mentality, particularly evident during the coronavirus pandemic, of "take for me first, let me take care of myself first, and if I have anything left over, maybe I can help you," she added. "And that's a deep problem for us. We have no real sense that we really belong to one another and we belong to one another on this Earth."

Delio said that solving the problems of climate change and environmental degradation begins with changing ourselves, and that communities seeking to live in the spirit of *Laudato Si'* must reflect a sense of mutual caring and mutual sharing that sees the Earth as part of that community and not simply a repository of resources.

"The ultimate concern of the human must be the integrity of the universe upon which the

human depends in such an absolute matter," she said. "Care for the Earth sounds like we're in charge, but the fact is the Earth cares for us. And if we destroy ourselves, it's likely that simple biological life will continue on."



Brian Roewe

Brian Roewe is NCR environment correspondent. His email address is broewe@ncronline.org. Follow him on Twitter at [@brianroewe](https://twitter.com/brianroewe).

ANTIOCH COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021, 9 AM – NOON

We're Looking For Volunteers!



What is Coastal Cleanup Day?

California Coastal Cleanup is typically the third Saturday of September. On Saturday September 18 from 9 AM to Noon, grab your bag and gloves and help clean the coast by keeping trash out of storm drains, creeks, and rivers, all of which eventually lead to the ocean. We will be picking up trash in and around the Prewett Water Park and the Antioch marina – 5 Marina Plaza (at the foot of L Street). The cleanup brings awareness to the marine litter problem and provides a community event for direct involvement. Help us by joining in the fight to preserve wildlife by taking trash out of the environment!

Volunteer alongside your families, friends, coworkers, scout troops, school groups, and service clubs. The event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by the Ocean Conservancy. California Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event in the US and International Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event on the planet!

For more details and to volunteer, see

<https://www.antiochca.gov/recreation/coastal-cleanup-day/>

For questions regarding the event, contact the Recreation Department Line at 925-776-3050.