

Parish Newsletter
For
3 July 2022



**THE 14TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMERS ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel

“Mission statements” are the order of the day for communities of all kinds. Luke presents today’s gospel as the early church’s “mission statement” and a practical handbook for its implementation. Our society is different; travel, communication, economics, multiculturalism, and multi-faith contacts have changed greatly from a generation ago, let alone almost two millennia. So how is this gospel relevant today? How can we distill the essence of its truth so it can inform our current mission?

First, the world needs the mission of Christians because there is a plentiful harvest waiting to be reaped. Second, prayer to “the master of the harvest” is essential for the empowering of the harvesters. Third, because it is Jesus Who sends us on mission, we can go in, confident of His active protection. This is not to discount the fourth missionary principle: the reminder that there are “wolves” to be

confronted on the way – personal, communal, and structural realities that will try to hunt down and consume those who proclaim the gospel. Every generation of Christians needs the gift of discernment so we can name and recognize there “wolves.”

Fifth, in our mobile society we know that to travel well is to travel lightly. When the goal of our journey is the reign of God, then money, possessions (or perhaps possessiveness), or concern with status can be hindering baggage, “Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals” is again a device of exaggeration that would have been understood by Luke’s communities as emphasizing the urgency of the mission. The same is true for the sixth warning to “greet no one,” not a recommendation for brash impoliteness, but a condemnation of social dalliance and time-consuming gossip.

Whether accepted or rejected, the precious gift of Jesus’ healing peace, not a false or conventional greeting, is to be offered to the household that the missionaries visit. This seventh instruction puts into the disciples’ mouths Jesus’ own resurrection greeting of Easter eve, “Peace be with you” to be freely accepted or rejected.

Hospitality that is graciously accepted and allows the host to dictate the “menu” not only at meals but also in the broader cultural context of the table of life, is the eighth principle. Good missionaries do not impose their own cultural expectations on others but are nourished by whatever the host offers, both personal and social. This does not deny efforts to dismantle social barriers, and the mention of the curing of the sick reminds us that this is a work of loving service that speaks a universal language of care and respect for suffering humanity, no matter what a person’s culture or social status. Accepted or rejected, the message is the

same: “The kingdom of God is at hand.” And so the ninth missionary principle is the realistic expectation of failure, of being resisted and rejected as Jesus was.

The tenth and last principle of the missionary charter is that, no matter what, we persevere in our proclamation of the reign of God by our words, our relationships, and our rituals. The closing mention of Sodom is not in reference to any sexual immorality, but to the great sin of denying hospitality to God’s messengers. This is what disciples of Jesus are. Those who deny them a welcome will be judged by what they reject – the reign of God.



Who are your partners in your daily work or career? Who are your partners in your faith?

Jesus tells His disciples, “Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals, and greet no one along the way.” How does this direction make you feel? Could you pick up and go out into the world without any luggage? This would make most people uncomfortable. Why do you think Jesus asks it?

In our reading from Isaiah, we see a vivid and tender image of the Lord. What imagery do you use to understand the Lord’s care for you? How does the image of a nursing mother feel? Do you feel that the Lord does indeed care for you this way, or is this explicitly maternal image somewhat new?

What do you think it means to shake off the dust of a town that doesn’t receive you?



About Liturgy: The Relationship Between Music and Preaching

As last Sunday’s scripture passages invited, today we take some time to reflect as to whether preaching can borrow musical techniques. We also revisit the importance of exploring the relationship of liturgical music and preaching.

First, we need to ask: Is the liturgy “over-texted” already? The danger of any of the various texts at liturgy is they, even though words themselves are signs, can actually be an obstacle that blocks the transcendent communication the liturgy is meant to use and be. The preaching and the musical lyrics are the places where that danger is perhaps highest.

We know as well that being concise and succinct is especially difficult in both arenas and risks miscommunication, either by leaving out important details, or, frankly, by not being very good at interpreting poetry. On the whole, though, we will still likely find it easier and be more successful by preaching on the poetry and symbolism of the Trinity, for instance, rather than explaining the doctrine of it; we will find it easier and be more successful by preaching the poetry and symbolism of the resurrection than explaining how it happened; we will find it easier and be more successful by

preaching on the poetry and symbolism of Eucharist rather than describing how it is confectioned:

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell: Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. ("Gift of Finest Wheat" by Omer Westendorf)

This is not to say that music and preaching should never dwell in specifics or in present reality – they can and must do so. Our faith, fundamentally, is one of mystery, paradox, the supernatural, things unseen but believed. Music and the poetry it tries to set and amplify both operate most successfully on the level of symbolism and are, therefore, perhaps best suited to express and make real within us this faith. Can our preaching do likewise, with relevance to a present context? I would hope so.

The Pew Research Center, in August 2016, released an analysis of data regarding Christians who seek new congregations. The percentage of adults who listed “quality of sermons” as an important factor in their search topped the list, at 83%. When we pair that with the earlier-mentioned admonition from “Sing To The Lord,” “Faith grows when it is well-expressed in celebration. Good celebrations can foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations weaken it” (5), the importance of pursuing the best quality of preaching and music cannot be overstated. Our church depends on it.



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to The Glory of God and In Honor of

the 100th Birthday of **Cecilia Carraher** and In Loving Memory of **Michael Lamendola**.



Last weekend it was my privilege to announce that we have not only reached, but exceeded this year's Bishop's Annual Ministries Appeal! Thanks to Father Richard and so many parishioners who participated, we reached our goal of \$34,900 and exceeded it. The contributions over and above the goal will be returned to the parish for use in our ministries. Again, I wish to thank you for such extraordinary generosity and support of the Diocese and its ministries, programs, and outreaches.



From Birthright of Brentwood

Dear Father Robert, Staff, and Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$290.00 as well as supporting us through your Mary Project. The gifts are wonderful and our young mothers appreciate getting new baby items.

Gratefully,
Rose Deitz

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Each week I have the blessing of recognizing some of the many volunteers who do so much for the parish throughout each week.

Thank you to those who clean the sanctuary and the bathrooms in preparation for the coming weekend: **Carole Miller, Jean Rogers Ada Nnaji, Phil Hadsell, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, and Steve Rojek.**

To **Virginia Noack** who vacuums the carpets at the entrance to the church each day, empties the waste receptacles in the restrooms as well as making sure they are clean and ready for use.

To **Lisa Lombardo** who records our liturgies and uploads them to our YouTube Channel for those who cannot be with us in person.

To our Parish Office Volunteers: **Alicia Perez, Melodye Costanza, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Bev Iacona.**

To our Parish Security Team: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Tony Gumina, Dave Simpson, Brian McCoy, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Jose Perez, Bill Barbanica, and Rick Carraher.**

To those who help and assist Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary, with accounting, data entry, recording, and banking.

To our Liturgical Ministers: **Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Cantors, Altar Guild, Adult Acolytes, Art & Environment Committee Members, Liturgy Committee Members, Funeral Coordinators, and Alexandra Hernandez and Lori Curiel** who launder and iron the Sacred Linens.



Our Children Need You!

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 21, 2022. All grades are taught one time per week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., from September 21, 2022 through May 17, 2023.

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, ext. 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.*"

of consultation that needs to be done before implementation.

As more information is provided, I will keep you updated. – Father Robert



The Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be returning to Sunday Mornings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the fall. If you would love to be a Catechist for the children during the homily on Sunday mornings, please reach out to me.

It would be wonderful to have 4-5 Catechists, rotating each week to work with the children. That would mean each Catechist would work with the children every 4-5 weeks.

All materials will be provided each week. If you are interested, please contact **Shelli Daviess** at daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net or 925-778-0768 ext. 305. Thank you.



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

The prophet Isaiah speaks about Jerusalem as a place of comfort and prosperity, but it is not the prosperity of riches, but of wisdom. We can say the same for the church, not the church institution, but the church as a

community of believers. When we look at the saints of our time, we are aware of the riches of wisdom that the community of believers has produced. The church was and is the soil in which the seeds of love grow. Teilhard de Chardin said, “Christ is not yet fully formed: he has not yet gathered about Him the last folds of His robe of flesh and of love which is made up of his faithful followers.” (*Hymn of the Universe* p. 37) We are those folds and there we find comfort.

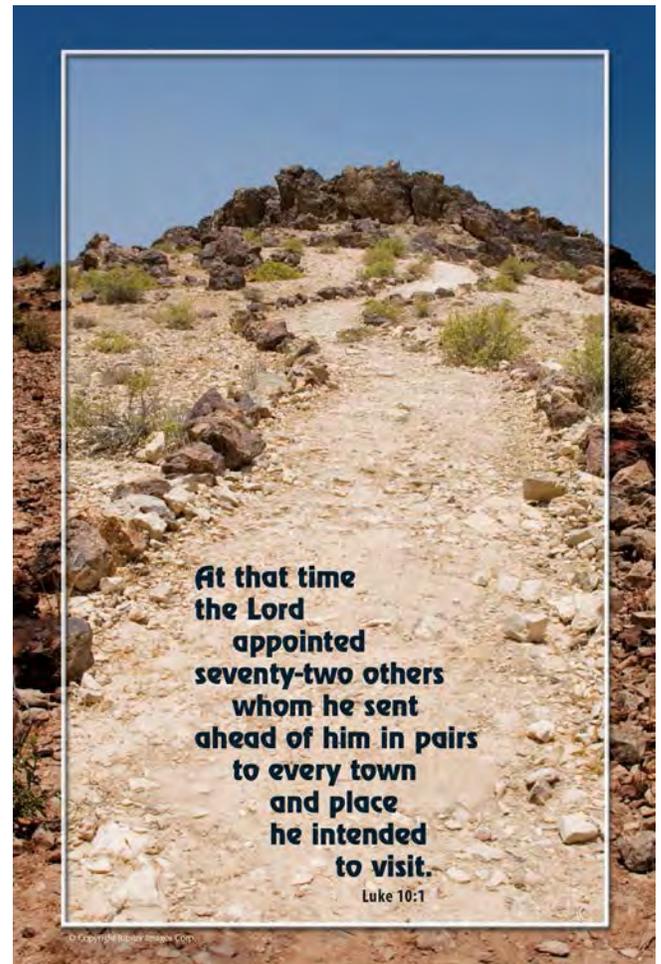
But in order to do that we must, “bear the marks of Jesus on our bodies” as St. Paul says to the Galatians in the second reading. In other words, we must be willing to suffer the trials and sufferings we are sent. The arguments of this age should not be our focus of attention, but only “the new creation” that is coming to be. So often our focus of attention is distracted by the on-going discussions on the news. We need to bring all things to prayer and make sure that our focus of attention is on Jesus, that we are listening to the words of the Spirit that He sends us.

The Gospel tells us how to recognize a follower of “the Way.” We are to wish them “peace, and if a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on them and if not, it will return to you.”

The following passage at the end of Luke's Gospel has always intrigued me. “The dust of your town (or of your argument) clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you!” This is a good testimony. Where do you find arguments or people that cling to you and that you just want to stomp the dust off your feet? I know in my life, there have been many instances where I want to stomp the dust into the ground, because the person does not see as Jesus sees. While I continue to love them and invite them, I do not want

to spend time with their arguments. In my mind I see myself stomping them into the dust on the road and moving on. The measure of a follower of Jesus is that we have the Holy Spirit to help us discern “the Way” of Jesus.

We are not to be distracted by arguments that go round and round, but rather to focus our attention on doing what Jesus did and go about our lives, seeing the true value of the person in front of us and inviting them to love, even if they do not return love to us. See among the robe of flesh that you meet this week if you can invite others to the companionship of the faithful. Pray that you will “keep the peace” in the midst of all who would stir up trouble in your pathway. As I keep saying, the only way to do that is to carve out moments of prayer morning and evening, quiet times of silence with no phones or emails, to hear what the Spirit is saying. And if you are a parent, teach your children how to do this. It is more important than the technology of the age.





Y.L.I. Antioch #101 Installation of Officers



You are cordially invited to join Antioch #101 for
the Installation of our 2022 - 2023 Officers

Let's come together and share an evening of Sisterly Love!

Monday, July 25th, 2022

To be held at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church Hall
3351 Contra Loma Blvd, Antioch

Doors open at 6:00pm, Dinner at 6:30pm
with Installation to follow.
Special Presentations too.

Cost per person \$32.00

Catered by Zandonella's

Sirlion Tri-Tip Roast, Champagne Chicken Breast,
Mushroom Risotto, Grilled Asparagus,
Spring Mix Salad, Rolls and Butter, Dessert
Tax and Tip included.

Mail payment to YLI #101 in care of Estrella Rusk,
3351 Contra Loma Blvd, Antioch, CA 94509. Please have payment(s) and
reservation(s) in by Monday, July 17, 2022.

Questions, call Rachelle Martin at (925) 565-0953





MEALS on WHEELS
DIABLO REGION



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

A few hours twice a month will keep a senior from going hungry! Meals on Wheels Diablo Region needs volunteers to deliver grocery bags on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to seniors in Antioch and Pittsburg. The Grocery Bag Program, a partnership of MOW Diablo Region and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, provides groceries to seniors who can cook simple meals but can't travel to the food bank.

To learn more, contact **Casey Claibourne** at **925.448.3695** or **cclaibourne@mowdr.org**. To sign up to volunteer, apply online at **<https://www.mowdiablregion.org/deliver-meals>** or contact **Lee Davenport** at **925.954.8736** or **ldavenport@mowdr.org**.

The RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic

at St. Vincent de Paul



FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

For All Uninsured Adults

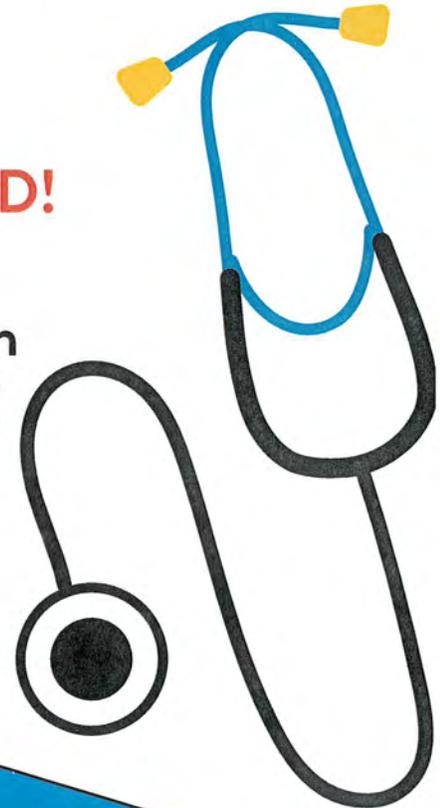
Clinic Open Wednesdays, 5 - 8 pm

2210 Gladstone Dr.

Pittsburg, CA 94565

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED!

Call **(925)439-2009** on
Wednesdays between 1 - 3 pm
to schedule an appointment!



Lab and diagnostic testing
provided at no charge



Urgent care and care for common
chronic conditions provided



Volunteer doctors and nurses provide
care to adults without insurance



Translators are
available

www.svdp-cc.org
www.rotacarebayarea.org

SPANISH INTERPRETERS NEEDED AT ST. VINCENT dE PAUL IN PITTSBURG

Help the sick & uninsured in your community receive access to medical care. Volunteer as a Spanish interpreter at the Rotacare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul.
Volunteer once per week or once per month!

Spanish Language Interpreter:

Wednesdays, 4pm - 8pm

Spanish Language Appointment Scheduler:

Wednesdays, 1pm - 3pm

Contact Info:

www.svdp-cc.org

pittsburg@rotacarebayarea.org

Contact Clinic Operations Manager: (925) 439-2009



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