

## For The Bulletin Of January 14, 2018



### THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### *From Father Robert*

Now that we have begun Winter's Ordinary Time, it might be surprising to read from the Gospel of John. After all, we are in "Year B" when we read primarily from the Gospel of Mark. Even so, we begin with the Gospel of John, the author of which is also known as "The Theologian." And the theology in this gospel can also be called Christology, for what he says about Jesus he says about God. The two are in a close dynamic relationship so that Jesus can say, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). In today's story we have the calling of the first disciples, only one of whom is named, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. The other disciple has traditionally been understood to be the "beloved disciple" or "the disciple whom Jesus loved," even though he is not named such here. Only later, beginning with the Last Supper, do we have that name. But if this unnamed disciple from chapter 1 is the same as the beloved disciple from later chapters, then the "eyewitness" of

the Fourth Gospel would have been present with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. Andrew and the unnamed disciple evangelize Simon, Andrew's brother, by saying they have found the Messiah. They bring Simon to Jesus. And before Simon can say a word, Jesus names him "Cephas," the Aramaic term for "Rock," translated into Greek as "Petros," from which we get the name "Peter." This story of Jesus naming Simon "Peter" is much different than that in the Synoptics, where Jesus names him "Peter" only after Simon confesses Jesus as the Messiah. The Gospel of John, with its intense emphasis on Jesus, does not allow the possibility of Simon's name change to be associated with his confession, or absolutely anything else Simon has done. In fact, this seems to be why the Gospel of John places this story in the first chapter, immediately after the call of the first disciples. Moreover, Andrew, rather than his brother Simon, is the one who says Jesus is the Messiah. Simon merely hears the news and comes to meet Jesus. In the Gospel of John, Jesus exercises authority not dependent upon human beings. In this case, we see clearly Johannine theology with its overriding emphasis on Jesus. For this reason and many others the author of this gospel has been named "The Theologian."





## Ordinary Time Between Christmas & Lent

### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

The gospel story about Peter reminds us that Jesus takes the initiative with us, His disciples. He sees who we truly are and calls us by name, even to the point of giving us a new name! Once we are known by Jesus, there is no need to “perform” or “meet targets.” We may rest in the knowledge that we are known by Him. Like Simon Peter, we each have a destiny, a purpose, and meaning. Like Andrew, we also have a mission, and that is to proclaim Jesus to others. Only by Andrew’s proclamation did Simon learn about Jesus. And Andrew learned about Jesus only by John the Baptist’s testimony.

In our own lives we recognize that we learned about Jesus from someone else, whether a parent, grandparent, teacher, or friend. We too tell one another about Jesus. In this way Christian faith is passed from one generation to the next. Evangelization is a hallmark of Christian identity from the beginning, as we see in today’s gospel. May we have energy and enthusiasm for evangelization that comes from the surety that we are known personally by Jesus.

As we begin the second week of this new year, it is a good time to already ask: “How am I doing with the resolutions I have made going forward in this new year?” Was one of those

resolutions to be a better, more faithful disciple of Jesus?

- Have you ever been the means of “inviting” someone to “behold” God’s love in their lives? Has someone ever been an Andrew or John the Baptist for you?
- When have you heard the voice of God inviting you to make a new beginning?
- Think about ways in which God provides opportunities for new beginnings that overcome the pain of broken relationships or the trauma of change.
- Where and when do we hear the voice of God calling us like the young Samuel to the work of the prophet? To be heralds of the Good News of God’s love?

### *About Liturgy: Winter’s Ordinary Time*

This Sunday begins Winter’s Ordinary Time, which is not really a season but the time between liturgical seasons. Though the Sundays we celebrate during these weeks may be simpler in solemnity compared to the Christmas or Easter seasons, “ordinary” does not necessarily describe the quality of this time. Rather, we call these weeks “ordinary” because they are “ordinal,” a word that refers to putting things into an order. In Ordinary Time, we count the weeks between the liturgical seasons and order our days through the lens of the ordinary ways we encounter Jesus in our daily lives.

During the Christmas Season, we celebrated three manifestations of Jesus: on Christmas Day in Bethlehem; to the Magi on Epiphany; and in the Jordan on the Baptism of the Lord. Today the manifestation continues with John the

Baptist recognizing Jesus as He walks by. What a fitting way to enter into this part of “ordinary” time where every person who walks by us just may well be Jesus in disguise.

Lent this year begins in exactly one month on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We have very little time following the conclusion of the Christmas Season before we enter into the Great Lent-Easter-Pentecost season.

### ***A Message from Catholic Charities of the East Bay***

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Exploitation of children includes sex trafficking which takes place in every place imaginable across urban, suburban and rural communities. Learn how you can make a difference by attending **Day Star Mentor & Volunteer Training Orientation** taking place Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Catholic Charities of the East Bay, 433 Jefferson Street, Oakland. RSVP or learn more by emailing Joy Thompson, Program Coordinator at [joythompson@cceb.org](mailto:joythompson@cceb.org).

### ***St. Vincent de Paul Annual Report***

The Holy Rosary Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul recently released their annual report. Some of the highlights include:

- 150 turkeys and baskets of food were given out for Thanksgiving at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church.
- 234 turkeys, grocery store gift cards and bags of food were given out for Christmas at Holy Rosary Church along with items from the Mobile Mall.

- Nearly 300 families received food assistance from the food pantry. Most families utilized this emergency food program less than 4 times in the year.
- Over 400 telephone calls for help were responded to and 150 home visits performed with financial assistance provided to most of the families.

Home visits to provide budget counseling are becoming a priority here in Antioch and we would welcome new volunteers to assist. Please call 757-9041, leaving your name and phone number with a message requesting more information about assisting with home visits.

### ***Winter Nights Update***

The Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter is conducting a two-month experimental Parking Lot Program at East County Shared Ministries (Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg and First Congregational Church of Antioch) at its Pittsburg location. The program allows families living in cars a safe place to park from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. and has the support of the Pittsburg Police Department. The families have access to restrooms and also receive some fruit and pastries for breakfast. This is NOT a drop-in location. Participants must apply through Winter Nights and are on a Waiting List for admission to the Winter Nights Shelter. The Parking Lot Program participants also have access to some of the daytime Oasis programs offered to participants in the Winter Nights Program.

# ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, on the last weekend of January, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the previous year to the congregation. Much more than just a statement of facts and figures, it is a wonderful way to look back over 2017 and remember all of the ways in which God has been at work in our lives and in our faith community, how each one of us has lived our discipleship, how we together are making a difference here in Antioch and beyond in building God's kingdom in our midst. It includes a financial report on our Stewardship of Treasure, how well we made the Budget for 2017 and what actually happened as well as presenting the Budget for 2018. I hope you will plan to be with us for liturgy that weekend as the Annual Report is presented to you at each of our liturgies. Printed copies will be made available for every registered family.



Our parish would not be what it is were it not for all the volunteers who help out with so many aspects of ministry and care for our facilities. If you are not involved as a volunteer, think and pray about how you can become involved, how your gifts, talents, and abilities can be used to enrich the life of our parish. Our thanks to the faithful group that comes early every Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the

weekend: **Carole Miller, Jack Goncalves, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Emilia Freking, Steve Rojek, and Angela Bueno.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to those who came last Monday morning to assist the Art & Environment Committee with the transition of the environment from Christmas to Winter's Ordinary Time: **Don Benson, Alicia Perez, Dave Simpson, Neil MacCaster, Rich Confetti, Norma and Pablo Villegas, Lee Oliver, Anne Peck, Carole Miller, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Harlan Young, Erika Fernandes, Denise Moss, and Tony Gumina.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** 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, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, 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:

**Emilia Freking, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Yvette Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Russo and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave**

**Costanza, Vangie Parrilla and Beth Enea.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, and Bob Goncalves.**



***The Norway Trip Is On for 2018!***

Presently 16 people are confirmed for our trip to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark this coming August. Both Fr. Mangini and I are leading the tour and we invite you to join us! This will be a tour of a lifetime and there is room for you to join us. Linda Grelli from Black Diamond Travel is arranging the details with round trip flights on SAS Airlines from San Francisco and back. This is a tour arranged through InsightTours, one of the leading Tour companies in the world. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me or give Linda call at Black Diamond Travel.

***A Letter Regarding Our Christmas Liturgical Environment***

Dear Fr. Robert,  
I needed to share with you my experience and feelings with you regarding the masterful design and importance that is given to the creation of our worship space here at St. Ignatius of Antioch. I wonder how many people realize that it is much more than just a display of tasteful and elegant decorum, but that if we would allow it, we may, by our own awareness be able to enter more deeply into the presence of our faith journey.

Sure this Christmas/Epiphany season was certainly spectacular! Probably the best I've ever seen it, and once the initial goose-bumps subsided and I caught my breath again I found myself, by the sheer power of the over-whelming sensory perceptions, slowing down. This was not the same hustle and bustle of some Macy's window display designed to excite my senses (and open my wallet), but an invitation to stillness, an awareness of God's eternal loving power for us, and I remembered what He has done and continues to do in our lives.

By now I'm primed, and when strains of heavenly music begin to fill the air I feel like all I can do is to receive the grace flowing forth. Again, my senses are totally engaged, I'm excited, and I'm ready to receive the Eucharist. I come back to this sacred space, I see it filling up with Jesus in the faces of our community, and I give thanks and a silent blessing to all of us, we are so fortunate to be here, I want to serve , to do more, to give.

Mostly though I want everyone to know what's going on here, we have a pastor

who gets it, and it's not just at the high holy days but even through all the "ordinary" seasons.

Thank you for helping us and guiding us and showing us how to deeply understand, appreciate and respect the dignity that is our worship space. Please know that your efforts are certainly producing results. I thank you for your skills and most importantly for your faithfulness and service to all. May God continue to bless you deeply.

Your parishioners,  
Oscar and Zoila Jovel

© J. S. Palach Co., Inc.

