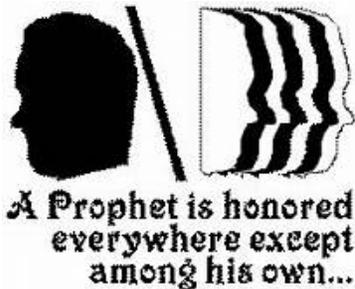


**For The Bulletin Of
July 8, 2018**



THE 14TH SUNDAY IN SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

Have you ever been so familiar with someone that you knew what he would say in a given situation? Or have you ever known someone so well that you could predict her behavior? That's how well Jesus' townspeople and family thought they knew Him. So, after Jesus had been away for some time performing His ministry, He returned to His hometown and faced the shock and surprise of those who thought they knew Him.

The townspeople knew Him from the time He was a little boy, but Jesus had grown up and become His own person. Those from His hometown had "pegged" Him, put Him in a box. He was the "carpenter," the Son of Mary. They knew Him and knew His family. Who was He to teach them?

In response, Jesus refers to Himself as a prophet without honor in His own country, town, and even in His own house. Here too, like earlier stories in Mark, we have an indication of the situation in the Markan community. Jesus is without honor in His own house as many of the early Christians were

likely without honor in their own house. As Jesus was rejected by those who knew Him, many of the early Christians were likely rejected by those who knew them.

We are reminded of the adage, "familiarity breeds contempt." Those who were closest to Jesus for most of His life did not see Him for Who He was but for Who they determined Him to be.

As a result, He could do no mighty work there except a few minor healings. The Markan Jesus is in some ways dependent upon a faith response to perform mighty works. This is a reciprocal relationship with the believer. Of course, later gospels, will for the most part, modify that understanding so that Jesus' power is dependent upon nothing but His own will and that of God. But in this early gospel we hear something of the resistance Jesus faced and the resulting limitation in His ability to perform mighty works. Jesus was amazed at their unbelief. Their own limited understanding and their inability to perceive Who He was limited the works He was able to perform.



Living The Paschal Mystery

Today most of us are not in danger of being too familiar with Jesus the way those from His hometown were. We are not dismissive of the carpenter who was the son of Mary. But we can be

effectively blind to the presence of Jesus in our midst in the modern world. We can be dismissive of those we confine to the margins of society. Who is that? A homeless person? A beggar at the freeway off-ramp? An immigrant? Or an undocumented person? What does that person know that we don't already know? What wisdom could that person have that we don't already possess?

There is a temptation in the religious realm and even societal realm to believe we have what we need to be complete and whole. There is little another person, especially one on the margins, could teach us about how to act, how to behave, or anything about God. That is precisely how the Nazarenes behaved with respect to Jesus. They thought they understood who He was. They knew His family, His backstory. What more did they need to know? In their minds, this upstart was too big for His britches. They took offense at him. Yet, God was effectively in the midst.

May we be open to finding the new, the unexpected, in familiarity. Let us not grow too familiar that we fail to see the presence of God in our midst.

Today's readings present very personal challenges. Do we see ourselves in the "crowd" of the gospel? Have we become complacent or presume there is nothing extraordinary in the ordinary, something or someone exceptional in the "familiar?"

- Who are the "authorities" in my life whom I look up to and pay attention to?
- Have I ever known someone who possessed the courageous, unwavering faith of a "prophet?"

- When have I been "offended" by someone who spoke about a moral or ethical issue?
- In what situations or set of circumstances has it been most difficult for me to live my faith?



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 do not. 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.



New From Our Knights of Columbus
On behalf of all of us, I wish to thank **Past Grand Knight Dave Simpson for his leadership during the past two years** and the work that our council successfully achieved during the time that he was our Grand Knight. Many projects of the Knights were carried

forward by past administrations through Dave's leadership as well as the members of our Council who stepped up in support of Dave. I would also like to congratulate the incoming Grand Knight, **Tim Cox**, and the Officers who will serve with him. I know and trust that the good work of our Council will continue under your leadership.

This past Sunday was Hospitality Sunday and our new Grand Knight, **Tim Cox**, has sent the following expression of gratitude to our Brother Knights who made it possible: "I want to thank our Brother Knights, **Bill Barbanica, Dave Simpson, Phil Rios, Steve Rojek, Jeff Boatright, Jeffery Boatright, Vince Augusta, and Rick Howell** for helping out on this Hospitality Sunday. It was much appreciated by all those at both our 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies."

Grand Knight Tim Cox also congratulated the Knights who completed their 2nd Degree: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Brother Knights **Michael Bacchus and Jeff Boatwright** on completing their 2ND DEGREE on Saturday, June 30th.



Thank You from Team St. Ignatius of Antioch

As Co-Capts. of the St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay for Life Team, we would

like to thank everyone from our parish who donated so generously to our team. Even though it was an extremely hot day, many teams came together to walk the track at Los Medanos College beginning at 10:00 am. The bands were wonderful, the many performers were real troopers, and the food was great. And, the security officers from the college were outstanding and stayed with us even through the hottest part of the day! Our co-chairs **Tina Hannon and Jamie Rackley** were absolutely awesome, as were the Event Leadership and Team Captains. A special Thank You goes out to **Jose Perez, Don Benson and Dave Simpson** for keeping the water coolers around the track filled by driving our St. Ignatius of Antioch Speedster which we decorated as a "Princess" to follow our Team's theme.

The four cities (Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley and Pittsburg) came together like a well-oiled machine and it definitely showed in the final total given on Sunday morning before the closing ceremony. The goal for Relay for Life of the Delta was \$85,000 and the total announced on Sunday was over \$116,000. Our individual team goal was set at \$4,000 and because of your generosity as of June 27th we came in at \$7,624!!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and extreme appreciation from all of the team to all of you for helping us to *Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back*, until we find a cure.

With many blessings and much appreciation,

Maryann Peddicord and Alicia Perez
Co-Capts. for Team St. Ignatius of Antioch

Bishop McElroy says 'lived reality' at heart of Francis' pastoral theology, profound moment of renewal

Jun 27, 2018

by Dan Morris-Young

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The "lived reality of men and women and children and families" and their "sufferings and challenges and joys" are at the center of "a moment of explicit theological renewal that will contribute enormously to the spread of the Gospel in this new millennium," said San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy in a June 26 keynote address.

That understanding of the "emerging pastoral theology" delineated and promoted by Pope Francis "both links us to the pastoral action and ethos of the Lord himself" and is "highly attuned to the challenges and culture of the 21st century," McElroy told participants at the annual assembly of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) held June 25-28* in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

McElroy declared the "see-judge-act methodology" that undergirds this understanding of pastoral theology "is rooted in the world as it is, rather than in the world as it is imagined to be."

"The pastoral theology of Pope Francis," he said, "rejects a notion of law which can be blind to the uniqueness of concrete human situations, human suffering and human limitation."

Titled "Pastoral Theology for a Post-Modern World," the address drew a

sustained standing ovation. McElroy exhorted Catholics to:

- Banish "judgmentalism from the life of the church, and replace it with the constantly affirming love of Jesus Christ";
- Embrace the principle that "lived experience of human sinfulness and human conversion are vital to understanding the central attribute of God in relation to us, which is mercy";
- Realize that "the pastoral theology of Pope Francis requires that the liturgical and sacramental life of the church be formed in compassionate embrace with the often overwhelming life-challenges which prevent men and women at periods of their lives from conforming adequately with important Gospel challenges."

The bishop drew an audible reaction from the more than 200 AUSCP participants when he said that while opponents of "elements of the pastoral mission of Pope Francis" often argue that "doctrine cannot be superseded by the pastoral," it is "equally important to recognize that the pastoral cannot be eclipsed by doctrine." "And pastoral authority is as important as philosophical authenticity or authenticity in law contouring the life of the church to the charter which our Lord himself has given us," he said.

In "enormously important ways, the vision of pastoral theology embraced by Pope Francis is a rejection of the tradition which sees pastoral theology as primarily derivative," McElroy said. An active participant in floor discussions at U.S. bishops' national gatherings, McElroy was introduced to applause as "a truly Vatican II priest and Francis bishop."

During the mid-June U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting in Fort Lauderdale, he was among bishops who pushed for wholesale changes or replacement of the conference's quadrennial guide to Catholics on how to approach election issues, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." He and others argued that the document as it exists does not adequately incorporate the social justice teachings of Francis nor address current events "that traumatize us as a country," in his words.

Still, after introductory remarks in Albuquerque, McElroy began his formal presentation saying, "We are living in a wonderful moment in the life of the church."

"The authentic renewal of the Second Vatican Council remains the foundation and the challenge for those who seek to deepen the theology of the church and bring it into the life of the world," he explained.

"The call of Pope John Paul II for the church to constantly witness to Christ and the challenge of Pope Benedict to confirm the truth in an age of relativism guide the Catholic community in its discernment and its action. The call to missionary discipleship frames the vocation for every Christian woman and man."

According to McElroy, the "emergence of this pastoral theology in the present pontificate bears a striking resemblance to the renewal of theology in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council." As examples, he cited post-World War II "movements of intense theological richness," including advances in Scripture studies, recovery of "the

historic liturgical life of the church" and "the sustained reflection on the nature of the church as a font for the deepening of contemporary sacramental celebrations." These were part of "a broad theological inquiry that allowed the bishops of the council to reflect upon the challenges of the church in the modern world armed with robust insights central to the proclamation of the Gospel in the 20th century."

Growth today "of a comprehensive pastoral theology" parallels "the flourishing of ecumenical and moral theology in the post-conciliar period," he argued, "and that the continuing expansion of the church's social doctrine formed with a truly global church." However, the bishop said, "in a very real way the pastoral moment that we are witnessing today ... is different from any of these prior theological renewals, for each of them took place within a recognized field of specifically theological reflection."

"The challenge of pastoral theology is not only to delineate the substance of its insights ... but also the challenge to demonstrate that it is a significant branch of theology at all."

McElroy judges that it is. Pastoral theology "calls for pastoral action to take its rightful place in framing the life and belief of the universal church in concert with the traditional theological enterprises of dogma, scriptural studies, moral theology, ecclesiology, liturgical and spiritual theology."

Historically, he pointed out, pastoral theology "emerged as a major element of the reform of the priesthood and ecclesial life" following the

Reformation, was viewed as "a derivative branch of theology" and "was envisioned as primarily the work of priests."

Francis has radically altered that understanding, McElroy underscored. The pope's outlook on pastoral theology "demands that all of the other branches of theology attend to the concrete reality of human life and human suffering in a much more substantial way in forming doctrine," he said.

This "demands that moral theology proceed from the actual pastoral action of Jesus Christ," he continued, "which does not demand a change of life but begins with an embrace of divine love, proceeds to the action of healing, and only then requires a conversion of action in responsible conscience."

For Francis, he explained, "the datum of pastoral theology is the lived experience of the faithful in the concrete call of their discipleship."

That reality is found throughout what McElroy called the "three fundamental foundations" for this understanding of pastoral theology.

Those underpinnings, he said, are:

- The "assertion that not only the activity, but the very nature of the church, involves at its heart pastoral action to heal the hearts of men and women who are suffering";
- Recognition "that the church should mirror the pastoral action of the Lord himself";
- The principle "that the church's pastoral identity and action must be rooted in the life situations that men and women actually experience in the world today."

"It is impossible to build up a pastoral church without explicitly investigating the signs of the times and then integrating the results ... into the very core of the church's mission today," McElroy stated.

The bishop stressed Francis' "description of the church itself as a field hospital." "We are gifted with the image of the church as a field hospital, focused precisely on the specific wounds that weigh down the men and women of our age as well as ourselves," he told his audience of nearly all senior priests. McElroy quoted the pope who said, "I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal the wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful. It needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle.

"It is useless to ask a seriously wounded person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars. You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

"The image of the church as a field hospital points to the reality that the church is never remote from human experience, never self-referential if it is to be faithful to its mission," McElroy said. "Rather the church must always be enmeshed in the real lives and sufferings and challenges and joys of the people of God and the whole of humanity."

The bishop described the field hospital descriptive as "earthy, rough-hewn, much like the stable in Bethlehem where our Lord revealed himself to the world." In preliminary remarks, McElroy also used the image of the Holy Family, saying that U.S. border enforcement

actions could well have led to the infant Jesus "being ripped from the arms of our Holy Mother."

The San Diego Diocese borders Mexico. McElroy has been outspoken in his criticism of U.S. immigration policy and has taken part in border protests and demonstrations.

According to AUSCP spokesman Paul Leingang, McElroy's address as well as those by assembly presenters Franciscan Sr. Katarina Schuth and Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr, will be available on the organization's website.

Founded in 2011 and based in Tiffin, Ohio, the AUSCP has about 1,200 priest members in addition to about 120 enrolled supporters.

** The assembly dates in this story have been corrected.*

[Dan Morris-Young is NCR's West Coast correspondent]



...to our volunteers who arrive early each Saturday morning (or sometimes on Friday morning) to clean and maintain our church and parish hall: **Rose Salamanca, Alfred Madoshi, Carole Miller, Dora Pesapane, Jean Rogers and Tess Trinidad.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek and Harlan Young.**

...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, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, 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:

Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Sharon Cissell, Harlan Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

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

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, and Sherry Webb.**

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



July 4, 2018

Dear Friends,

It has been a month since our Interfaith Center in Antioch was vandalized and burglarized. We are open and all is back to normal. The trauma of the event has left us a little shaken but we are deeply grateful for all the support and encouragement we have received.

Our rededication date is Saturday, July 28, 2018,, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please come and light a candle, burn an incense stick, meet a friend and enjoy some refreshments. As you walk through the door, our Interfaith Peace Center will be rededicated by your presence. If you cannot attend, please offer a prayer, light a candle, or outreach to a poor person wherever you are.

Of course, our trauma cannot match the suffering in our World today. As we pause to rededicate our Center, we rededicate ourselves to our essential work to bring about understanding and peace to all we meet.

We will rededicate our Center to end all forms of violence and offer friendship to those who would injure us.

We will rededicate our Center as we call for an end to

the violence against our children at the Southern Border who ought to be in someone's arms, not in government cages.

We will rededicate our Center as a safe haven where people can dialogue and share without fear of criticism or rejection.

We will rededicate our Center by calling for "Welcome Centers" on our Borders as we recognize the unity and oneness of our human family.

We will rededicate our Center as we pledge anew to advocate for Women's Rights and Dignity throughout the World.

We will rededicate our Center as we open our doors to all people, recognizing there is only one race of people – the human race.

We will rededicate our Center as we rededicate ourselves to be for all whatever they need us to be, in the name of peace.

Please accept our gratitude for all you have done to challenge us not to lose heart. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, July 28, for our Open House Rededication (11:00 am - 5:00 pm). Please RSVP to June Kirk at

junekirk48@outlook.com or call her at 925-325-0144. Please leave your name and the number of people attending.

Peacefully,

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P., Executive Director



Parish To Initiate The Sheepdog Program

At one of our Deanery meetings recently, a presentation was made by the Chaplain of the Brentwood Police Department regarding the “Sheepdog Program.” The program consists of off-duty police officers, sheriff’s deputies, and California Highway Patrol officers who are members of the parish and provide security during liturgies in the event of an active shooter. I have asked retired **Pittsburg Police Officer Kirby McNesby** to coordinate the program in our parish and am requesting that all those in Law Enforcement to please contact me with your names and phone numbers to create a list of available officers to participate in the program. Once the list is compiled, we would like to have a meeting of all participants in early August to put the program in place. Thank you for offering yourselves in service to our community in this important way. As of last Sunday, two

parishioners have come forward to offer to serve in this new ministry. You may also call the parish office and leave your name and contact information with the receptionist or our Pastoral Secretary, **Maryann Peddicord**.



Annual Police Chaplaincy Training

Since 2006, I have served as Chaplain for our Antioch Police Department. As a part of this ministry, I joined the **International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC)** in order to better serve our officers and Antioch PD and receive the necessary training to provide competency, understanding, awareness, and skills to minister to both the Department and the wider community. Each year, the Annual Training Seminar is held in a different part of the United States to allow the members of ICPC in a particular region, as well as those from around the country and the world, to receive on-going training and the development of their individual professionalism. This year, the Training Seminar is being held in Lexington, Kentucky and begins tomorrow, Monday, July 9th through Friday, July 13th. As you read this article, I am flying across the country to Kentucky to participate in the Seminar once again. I ask for your prayers for me, for all the Chaplains who are attending the Seminar, as well as all our First

Responders in Law Enforcement and Fire Service. Classes each day begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m. each evening. On Wednesday, there will be the Annual Memorial Service for all those in Law Enforcement who were killed in the Line of Duty and is one of the most emotional moments of the entire week. On Thursday evening, a banquet is held at which those who have achieved distinction of service and are being awarded recognition for advancing to the next level of “rank” (i.e. Basic, Senior, Master, Diplomat) are announced, along with the results of the election of new/incoming officers for the next year. Classes conclude on Friday morning followed by a Closing Ceremony before Chaplains begin their return home. I will return to the parish late Friday evening. Thank you for your support for me as a Police Chaplain for Antioch PD and this important ministry to our First Responders.

