June 30, 2019 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Follow Me.

Luke 9:59

WELCOME TO ST. ANNE’S

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Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 30, 2019

“Nothing who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

RADICAL TRANSFORMATION
On this Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the readings describe anything but an ordinary time. They are disturbing and they leave us disturbed. The Old Testament reading recounts a young man’s radical break with the past to follow a new path. The Gospel describes how life as we know it is abruptly changed if we follow the call of Christ. The psalm and Paul assure us that such life-altering change is possible only because of the power of God’s love. We are presented with a stark choice. To love as God loves, we must leave our old lives behind. We must leave behind not just the bad, the selfish, and the evil but the ordinary, our daily work, and the important, our families, our lives. Loving as God loves requires a radical transformation, not a smooth transition. 

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION
Processions are life’s journey distilled. We move with companions, aware that Christ accompanies us, as we move to the altar for Communion or to the font for baptism, or carry a loved one to a place of rest. In Europe, the season of pilgrimage is beginning now, and tens of thousands of people are moving by foot on well-worn paths. Some take as long as six weeks to walk the last few hundred miles of the medieval pilgrimage route to the Shrine of St. James the Apostle in Compostella, in northern Spain.

Those who make the journey by foot, hiking, or by bicycle, have a kind of passport stamped at villages and monasteries on the road. When they present this document at the cathedral, they are given the emblem of a pilgrim, the scallop shell of St. James. High over their heads at Mass, a huge botafumero twirls clouds of sweet incense through the cathedral. Cynics say it is to mask the odor of smelly feet. The pilgrims know better. Seeing through the clouds the happy faces of those they met along the road, they recognize a foretaste of the welcome into heaven, and the joy of meeting loved ones in the Kingdom of God.

Pastor’s Column

Being a Bridge – If you’ve been watching the news or TV lately, there seems to be a lot more news or stories about the LGBT community this month. Have you wondered why? After all, aren’t they in the mainstream already with politicians, TV shows, and characters that are openly LGBT? Although there has been progress in not criminalizing their orientation, they still face discrimination. In 29 states, it is still legal to fire someone for being gay, lesbian, or bisexual. In 32 states, the same is true for transgender people. 33 states don’t include protections for sexuality under housing discrimination laws. And the suicide rate among LGBT teens is 3.5 times higher than heterosexual teens according to a report in the JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association). The analysis of 35 studies totaled nearly 2.4 million heterosexual youth and 113,468 sexual minority youth, ages 12-20, from 10 countries. Researcher Brian Mustanski, director of the Institute for Sexual and Gender Health and Well Being at Northwestern University’s School of Medicine in Chicago, said they found that the accumulation of experiences with victimization and bullying can lead to depression and feelings of hopelessness. And those increase the risk for suicide.

So what can we do as a faith community? In Jesuit Father James Martin’s book Building a Bridge, he reminds us that baptized LGBT people are part of the Church. They are not outside of her. They should be treated like any other Catholic, and we should not view them as sinners because we’re all sinners. As Jesus said, who spoke to the crowd bent on stoning a woman caught in adultery, “Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:7). And no one dared because they acknowledged that before God, we’re all sinners. But it’s God’s mercy and forgiveness that sets us right and redeems us. Nonetheless, the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs us to treat the LGBT community with “respect, compassion and sensitivity,” and Fr. Martin adds that the LGBT members also need to treat the Church in the same way. We’re all fallible human beings, striving to live the way of Jesus, the way of holiness. And just as Jesus welcomed the marginalized and loved and embraced them, we also need to welcome and love those who feel marginalized. LGBT people are, after all, part of the Body of Christ. They too are created by God with special gifts to serve His purpose, and we are to welcome them so that together, with all our gifts, we can build up the Body of Christ to serve one another and our world. So as the LGBTQ (Q for questioning/searching) community celebrates Pride Day today, let us celebrate it with them. They have come a long way. They can be proud of their accomplishments even as they have a long way to go. And we can celebrate who they are, beautiful and beloved children of God.

- Fr. Dan
Dear Brothers and Sisters of Good Saint Anne,

The 112th Novena to our Patroness Good Saint Anne is just around the corner. Your pastor Father Dan has invited the Redemptorists to return to the Sunset and Fathers Maurice Nutt, John Schmidt, Byron Miller, Ted Lawson and myself will all be joining you during the nine days of the novena. The Novena will begin on the 18th of July, and it will be held every day until the feast of our Patron on Friday, July 26th. The Novena will be held at 8:45am, 2:30pm and 7:00pm. Our theme this year is “Be Glad and Rejoice,” and we will reflect on Pope Francis’ letter Gaudete et Exsultate on the call to Holiness in today’s world. Pope Francis reminds us that all of us are called to holiness; in his introduction, he says, “My modest goal is to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us ‘to be holy and blameless before him in love’ (Eph 1:4)” [G&E #2]. Returning to San Francisco has always been a great joy for myself and my brother Redemptorists. It is a time to renew old friendships and to make new ones. But most importantly, it is a time for us to grow in Holiness. I would ask that you make a special effort to begin praying for the success of the Novena every day. Pray that it may be an opportunity for spiritual growth and for deepening our relationship with Jesus.

With every best wish,
Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR,
Good Saint Anne, Pray for Us!
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ST. ANNE REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday Mass
   Sat., 5pm;  Sun: 7:30, 9, 10:30am & 12pm (Chinese)

Daily Mass
   Mon - Fri:  6:30am & 8:45am
   Sat:  8:45am (Devotion to St. Anne)

Holy Days of Obligation
   6:30am, 8:45am, 12 noon & 6pm

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
   1st Friday following 8:45am Mass until 10am

Reconciliation:  Sat., 4 - 4:55pm or by appointment

Baptism:  2nd Saturday @ 12:30pm
   Preparation Class: 3rd Saturday @ 10am in Rectory

Office Hours:  Mon - Fri: 9am - 4:30pm
   Church Hours: Mon—Fri: 8am-4pm
   Sat.: 8am-6pm  Sun: 7am-1:30pm
Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge . . . .
— Psalm 16:1

St. Anne Mission Statement

We, the people of Saint Anne, envision a Christ-centered community, enriched by the gifts of a diverse heritage. We remember the past and are open to the future; living out the Gospel values with enthusiasm, joy and celebration under the protection of Saint Anne.

We commit ourselves to sharing the mission belonging to all followers of Christ: caring for one another and reaching out to those in need.

We commit ourselves to revitalizing our parish community; to participating meaningfully in the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, to developing a strong sense of stewardship; and to regularly evaluating our work and ministries.
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