

August 26, 2018

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**From the Desk of Rev. Anthony Columba Ekanem, MSP:**

Today in our Gospel reading, (John 6:60-69) we hear the conclusion of the “Bread of life discourse.” It records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus’ disciples. Just as other Jews quarreled among themselves and murmured about Jesus’ teaching, these disciples also could not accept Jesus’ words. “This saying is hard, who can accept it.” Jesus responds by acknowledging their struggle and unbelief by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end.

Here also, we witness the risk of faith. “Will you also leave me?” Even though Jesus was sad to see those people leave Him, He let them go. It was not great crowds that made Him happy. What mattered to him was the authenticity and sincerity of those who stayed.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal and deep faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Like Joshua in the first reading who confronted the people of his time with a vital decision – ‘decide today whom you will serve.’ This is a call to true commitment, and an also invitation to the people to renew that covenant their ancestors made at Sinai. The determination to remain faithful at all time is very important here.

This is where St Paul in his words to the Ephesians uses the analogy of married Christians, to illustrate that intimate relationship between Christ and the Church, without promoting blind obedience or degrading submission of women to men, or even encouraging abuse of power of one over another.

In the midst of all that we read or hear about our Catholic Church today, and even in our politics or in our families, can we re-affirm like Joshua, “As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord,” or like Peter, “Master, to whom shall we go? We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

**Re-new and Re-build Recognition Plaque for Donors**

The names on the plaque are currently being engraved and should be completed soon. They have promised us it would be here very soon. Thank you again to all our donors.

**Workshop Training**

There will be training for those who are interested in serving as Lector and Extraordinary minister of the Holy Communion on Friday, August 31, 2018 at 7 pm in our Chapel.

**Collection:** The collection for last Sunday, August 19, 2018 was \$ 2,859

**Second collection:** Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit Appeal (\$582.00 )

This Sunday the 2nd collection will be our monthly Church Property Insurance Collection.

**Our 2018 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update**

Pledged: \$27,842 (68% of goal)

Goal: \$41,000 (We need \$13,158 to reach our goal!)

Families/Parishioners Participating Today: 100 – Our Goal: 194

*Now is the time to make your pledge TODAY!*

**Today's Focus: Using What We Have :**

Our world, like the world of scriptural times, is filled with many categories or even pigeonholes we try to use to keep others away. But to live as Christ means to serve others-ALL Others.

**Living and Praying with the world:**

Lord Jesus, you have words that are food for my soul. You can call me to become more than I could be without you. Refresh the presence of your Holy Spirit within me. Fee me with your very self.

The Archdiocese of New York Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team Invites you to our Upper Counties Conference, Saturday, September 29, 2018, 10:00AM - 5:00PM, at Capuchin Youth and Family Ministries, 781 Route 9D, Garrison, NY. Doors open 9:00AM. Fee is \$25 a person (includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and conference). Theme: Lord Deliver Me!

Speakers: Fr. Vincent Druding, "Deliverance Ministry: The Why And How Of It"; Fr. Chris Argano, "Discernment Of Spirits: To Protect Ourselves"; Ryan Young of Camp Veritas, "How Do We Live In The Spirit In A Hostile World?". Please

visit website for more detail, flyer, and registration: CatholicCharismaticNY.org or call (845)223-5653, no later than September 16, 2018.

**Registration for 2018-2019 Religious Education Program** is on going since June 2018 if you still need to register your child there is still time these are the dates to come in and register July 23 to July 30 and in August 4th ,20th and the 27th. New parents to the program need to bring their child's birth certificate and a copy of the baptismal certificate. There will be a fee of \$25.00 per child at the time of registration for both returning parents and new parents to the program which is non-refundable.

*Our religious Education Program is on Saturday mornings from 9:20 am to 11:00 am.*

Registration Fees are as follows:

Registration for one child is \$100.00

Registration for two children is \$175.00

Registration for three or four children is \$200.00

If your child will be receiving one of the following Sacraments the fees are as follows:

Holy Communion fee is \$80.00 per child

Confirmation fee is \$100.00 per child

**Mass Schedule for the week of**

**August 26, 2018 to September 2, 2018**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm**

**Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

**Sunday August 26, 2018:**

7:30 am –For the Parishioners

9:00 am-In Thanksgiving for the Holy Spirit

Ana Linares

11:00 am– Esther & Jose Duarte

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

**Thursday August 30, 2018:**

7:00 pm-Juan Linano

Jose Altoro Linano

**Saturday September 1, 2018:**

12:05 pm-Zenaida Gonzalez

For a 40th birthday

5:00 pm-Rose Kunny

Marge & Bob Esrostd

7:30 pm-Hilda Leon Fernandez

Mary Leon & Negrin Family

**Sunday September 2, 2018:**

7:30-For the Parishioners

9:00-Milagros Payano

Alina Payano

11:00-Manuel Tome

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

**Parish Membership:** All adult Catholics should be registered. We want to know and serve you and hope that you will become an active member of our parish community. Please notify the office of any changes in address, or if you are leaving the Parish. It is necessary to be a registered member of our parish for a minimum of 3 months in order for us to testify to your ability to be a sponsor for Baptism/Confirmation, witness to a Catholic marriage, or provide recommendation for a position at work or character reference.