

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 30, 2019

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

What does it mean to follow Jesus Christ?

Perhaps for many people, following the Lord Jesus Christ means

- keeping the rules of the Church,
- being careful to avoid sin and
- do good.

This is surely not the only description of following the Lord Jesus Christ. It is more than that. It involves discipleship. Today, in the first reading from 1 Kings 19:16b-19-21 – Elisha is called to succeed the prophet Elijah and in the Gospel reading in Luke 9:51-62 – There is a clear requirement by Jesus for a total commitment to the three who volunteered to follow Him. Which means, following Jesus is not an easy endeavor, it entails an unconditional commitment to God's saving work. It is all about a radical demands of discipleship. It may be that is why Jesus sounded harsh in His invitation to follow Him. Some disciples did not understand the demands; some were not aware of the cost or prize of discipleship. What was central in our Lord's mission is looking forward and not looking back in what He was sent to do. To him Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plough and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9: 62.

The response of Jesus even to the disciples James and John who suggested that He calls down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans for their rejection was a rebuke. There is often a tendency or temptation in our daily lives to use violence to respond to anyone who objects or hinders us. Jesus came to break and teach us how to deal with our rejection, discrimination, tribalism, segregation etc. This is one aspect of what it means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ - His new commandments. For Elijah, his reaction to Elisha was simply, he throws his cloak over him, symbolizing the transfer of authority and power. Having left all things, Elisha proceeds to follow Elijah as his attendant.

Finally, though we are baptized into Jesus Christ, like the Galatians' union with Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit in the second reading, we still struggle against the flesh.

Today, we are called upon or challenged

- slaughter all the "oxen",
- burn the "plough" for fire,
- leave behind all of our families, work, wealth,
- proceed to re-commit ourselves to our calling of Jesus Christ.

Fidelity can be very costly because it requires courage and determination. We must slaughter all those forces, attachments, distraction, obstacles, old and bad habits and other mundane things both within and outside of us. Elisha demonstrated a total commitment to his call when he bid farewell to his family. This was an indication that he loved God more than his business, and his own self. Such gestures symbolize how freely he accepted his call.

On this last day of the month, may we ask ourselves, what are our "oxen" or describe a time in our lives when following Jesus Christ has cost us or someone else an unbearable pain or anguish. Remember, "You cannot serve God and Marmon at the same time," Luke 16:13.

Stewardship

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving Sunday for 06/23/19 our Offering was \$3,574.00

2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update

Goal: \$39,500 Total Amount Paid: \$29,536.00 Total Amount Pledged: \$34,500.00 Number of Families: 111 Percent of goal: 87%

If you haven't had the chance to make your contribution, there is there still time. You can use the pledge letters that have already arrived at your home. And if you have not received one or have never made a pledge before, it is very easy to do so online.

Just go to www.cardinalsappeal.org, click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church:

Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

FOR CATHOLICS

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

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Sundays Readings:

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:16b,19-21 p. 51

The Lord instructed Elijah to anoint Elisha as a prophet to succeed him. Elijah went to Elisha and threw his cloak over him. Receiving this sign, Elisha slaughtered his oxen for his people to eat. Then he left to follow Elijah.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16:1-2,5,7-8,2p.52

"You are my inheritance, O Lord!"

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1.13-18, p.52 Paul preached the freedom of Christ to the Galatians. He encouraged them not to take on the burden of slavery a second time. "I say, then: live by the Spirit."

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62 p. 53

As Jesus proceeded toward Jerusalem, he encouraged passersby to break with the past and follow him. "Go and proclaim the kingdom of God" he invited. "No one who...looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

Registration 2019-2020

Started on Saturday June 15, 2019 - July 31, 2019 (Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm)

Classes will begin September 7, 2019

All are welcome to our up Coming Events

- This Monday, July 1, we will have our monthly Food Distribution for the needy in our community. If you are in need of food, please stop by the Parish Office on Monday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

- Thank you to the all who supported the Spanish Mass Altar Servers fundraiser for their trip to Philadelphia. If you would like to provide further support you can contact the parish office.
- Deacon Jose will return for the Mission Appeal and will preach this weekend at the 7:30 pm Mass on Saturday and at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday.
- Bible Sharing: Do you want to learn more about the Word of God during the week, in English. Call and let us know whether Wednesday beginning in the month of September is convenient for you.

Mass Schedule for the week of June 29, to July 6, 2019

Special Intentions for this week

Saturday, June 29, 2019:

12:05pm— Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Joanne Kunny + * Adriana Pratt

7:30pm - Hilda Leon Fernandez *Mary Leon & Negrin Family

Sunday, June 30, 2019:

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – Rafaela Diaz *Josefa Navarro

11:00 am - Rachel Garcia + *Celeste Aguilar

Monday, July 1, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm Available/Disponibile

Tuesday July 2, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm – Available/Disponibile

Wednesday, July 3, 2019:

8:15am - Grace Carrera + *Ane Carrera

12:05 pm – Available/Disponibile

Thursday, July 4, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm— Pedro Santacruz + * Lourdes Santacruz

7:00 pm - Available/Disponibile

Friday, July 5, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Available/Disponibile

7:00 pm— Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, July 6, 2019:

12:05pm— Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Rose & Joanne Kunny + * the Kunny Family

7:30pm - Legion of Mary

+ *Indicates deceased*

* *Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.*

Security Cameras :

The Church is now under 24 hour surveillance both video and audio