

Let us all sing . . .

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Entrance: 871 — Morning Has Broken

Offertory: TAKE OUR BREAD (Loose sheet).

Communion: SONS OF GOD (Loose sheet).

Recessional: 601 — Sing to the Mountains.

The word "witness" appears in today's first reading and in the Gospel. It is used in reference to the first disciples — the apostles, but can it be used in reference to us, Jesus' disciples more than two thousand years later? We know the Lord, as did those first disciples, in the breaking of the bread.

The breaking of the bread reaches deep into who we are as Catholics, as Christians, that the teaching of the Catholic Church places before us as a command that we are to gather for the breaking of the bread every week. As we continue our liturgy today, may our breaking of the bread — the Eucharist, spark in us a true recognition of the Lord, alive in our midst, and a renewed commitment to be witnesses to the Good News in our own lives, and praying for the grace to bear daily witness to our faith.

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Another constant of today's readings is repentance. Why is repentance emphasized so strongly today, when the penitential season of Lent has ended? Perhaps because sin has not. As sinners, we are always called to repentance. Fortunately, as John says in his letter, Jesus is expiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Luckily also, Jesus' final words to us are about repentance and forgiveness, so we don't need to be perfect but to be always faithful. In other words, we are asked to be perfect in our faithfulness: when we sin, faithfulness is expressed in repentance, or when someone sins against us, faithfulness is expressed in forgiveness.

Bishop McElroy has granted Fr. George's Request to be Transferred to St. Thomas Indian Mission, Winterhaven, California, effective July 1, 2018.

As most of you know, it was a dream come true when I was assigned as pastor of St. Richard Parish and I even mentioned to the assigning bishop (the late Bishop Flores) and also to Bishop McElroy when he first visited me here three years ago, that I would like to be pastor here until my retirement. However, about two years ago I started having back problems (arthritis of spine), which caused the deterioration of my stamina for long distance non-stop driving. As it is now, after every 20 to 30 miles of driving I need to pull over for a brief break to drive away sleepiness and/or ease the pain in my back.

The journey to Christ the King Mission every Sunday right after the 9:30 AM Mass has become taxing. Other than the Sunday drive to CTK Mission, I also go there on Wednesday afternoons at least twice a month. Moreover, the situation in Borrego Springs is also such that for grocery and other supplies, the nearest Walmart or Staples or Home Depot is at least 60 to 70 miles away, whether I go to the one in Indio or the one in El Cajon or the one in Brawley/El Centro.

After several scary experiences in connection with driving to CTK Mission on Sundays, last January 2018 I finally had to write to the Bishop to ask that, if possible I would like to be transferred to St. Thomas Indian Mission in Winterhaven if only because the apostolate there does not require too much non-stop driving; I don't have to journey to another place right after the Mass; and, for grocery and other supplies, the city of Yuma is only a mile away. Moreover, Winterhaven may be 172 miles away from San Diego but since I travel the distance only perhaps once a month or when I attend diocesan meetings, and since the road is freeway all the way, I will even enjoy the drive since it is one in which I can allot time allowance for stretching/ coffee/rest breaks, just like I enjoy my journey to San Diego to attend diocesan meetings like the Presbyteral Council meetings. I also mentioned to the Bishop that if St. Thomas Indian Mission is not negotiable, I would rather just remain in Borrego Springs than transfer to a place other than St. Thomas Indian Mission. These two places are the ones that I like most not only because they are in the desert but also and especially because the rectory is not located in the midst of the residential area or the busy downtown area thus easily providing an atmosphere conducive to reflection, meditation and prayer. I will still be your Pastor until June 30, 2018. God bless us all, always. Sincerely in the Risen Lord, Fr. George of the Desert.

Cantémonos . . .

Entrada: 630 — Alabaré.

Ofertorio: 579 — Ofertorio Nicaraguense.

Comunión: 591 — Pan de Vida.

Salida: 631 — No Hay Dios Tan Grande.

Introducción a la Liturgia del Día

La palabra "testigo" aparece en la primera lectura de hoy y en el Evangelio. ¿Se utiliza en referencia a los primeros discípulos — los apóstoles, pero puede ser usado en referencia a nosotros, discípulos de Jesús más de 2 mil años más tarde? Reconocemos el Señor, como lo reconocieron los primeros discípulos, en el partir el pan.

El partir el pan está en la profundidad de quiénes somos como católicos, como cristianos, que la enseñanza de la iglesia católica pone ante nosotros como un precepto que tenemos que reunir para el partir el pan cada semana. Mientras continuamos nuestra liturgia de hoy, pueda nuestro partir

el pan — la Eucaristía, chispear en nosotros un reconocimiento verdadero del Señor, vivo en nuestro medio y un compromiso renovado para ser testigos de la buena noticia en nuestras propias vidas y rezando por la gracia de dar testimonio de nuestra fe diariamente.

Una otra constante en las lecturas de hoy es el arrepentimiento. ¿Por qué se enfatiza tan enérgicamente hoy si ya se ha terminado el tiempo penitencial de la Cuaresma? Tal vez sea porque el pecado no se ha terminado. Siempre estamos llamados al arrepentimiento, pues somos pecadores. Afortunadamente y tal como Juan lo dice en su carta, Jesús es la expiación por nuestros pecados y por los pecados del mundo entero. Por suerte también, las palabras finales de Jesús a nosotros son sobre el arrepentimiento y el perdón, por lo que no necesitamos ser perfectos pero siempre ser fieles. En otras palabras, se nos pide a ser perfectos en nuestra fidelidad: cuando pecamos, la fidelidad se expresa en arrepentimiento, o cuando alguien peca contra nosotros, la fidelidad se expresa en el perdón.

CHARLA PRE-BAUTISMAL

A TODOS LOS PADRES Y PADRINOS/MADRINAS DE UN BAUTISMO QUE SE CELEBRARÁ AQUÍ EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA O EN OTRA PARROQUIA DURANTE LOS MESES DE MAYO, JUNIO, JULIO O AGOSTO:

POR FAVOR REGÍSTRESE CON EL PADRE GEORGE AHORA.

HABRÁ SÓLO UNA CHARLA PRE-BAUTISMAL PARA LOS MESES YA MENCIONADOS. UNA CHARLA PRE-BAUTISMAL CONSISTIRÁ EN DOS REUNIONES DE UNA HORA Y MEDIA CADA ENCUESTRO.

En San Ricardo, la charla pre-bautismal será el Abril 20 y el Abril 27 (Viernes) a 7:00 PM.

En la misión Cristo el Rey, la charla pre-bautismal será el Abril 18 y el Abril 25 (Miércoles) a 7:00 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED PARISHIONERS. FELICIDADES A TODOS LOS RECIÉN CONFIRMADOS.

Sunday Collection (April 7-8, 2018)

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes St. Richard Church (\$1,908.60), Christ the King Mission (\$305.00), Other Collections, Donations (\$2,055.00), Solar Fund (\$1,911.00), Christ the King Tiendita of 4/08/18 (\$70.25), and St. Richard SnackBar (\$175.00).



PRIMERA CONFESIÓN:

- Mayo 9 (Miércoles) 6 PM — Primera Confesión para los del 2do Año Comunión de la misión Cristo el Rey.
Mayo 11 (Viernes) 5:15 PM — Primera Confesión para los del 2do Año Comunión de la iglesia San Ricardo.



PRIMERA COMUNIÓN

- En la Iglesia San Ricardo el 13 de mayo 2018 (domingo) a las 9:30 AM.
En la misión Cristo El Rey el 13 de mayo 2018 (domingo) a la 1:00 PM.

La distribución de Certificados de Primera

Comunión y de Confirmación, y la entrega de premios y el reconocimiento de los estudiantes sobresalientes se realizarán en las siguientes

Misas:

En la iglesia San Ricardo, durante la Misa de 6:30 PM el 19 de mayo (sábado) y en la Misa de 9:30 AM el 20 de mayo (domingo).

En la misión Cristo el Rey, durante la Misa de 12:00 PM el 20 de mayo (domingo).