

## Fifth Sunday of Easter



*...I give you a new commandment: love one another.*

### Why We Do What We Do

Yesterday (May 1<sup>st</sup>) was the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. This feast was established in 1955 by Pope Pius XII to counteract the May Day holidays of socialists and communists. St. Joseph, a carpenter by trade, has long been known as a patron of workers and a model for all workers.

The history of work in the United States is one where there has been opportunity, but also oppression of good and bad. For every story of success (and there are many) there are stories of certain industries relying on cheap labor and paying unjust wages. For every story of a UPS driver becoming CEO there is the story of the death of a coal miner because his company did not care enough about his safety.

This goes back to the beginning of the American colonies where indentured servants (people who voluntarily traded their services for a period of time in an arrangement very close to slavery), and prisoners (who were used to do many challenging and labor intensive jobs), were used unjustly to supply the labor market. From farming to building to making tools, these workers often were working off debts, behind on their taxes, or prisoners sent to new lands. The state of Georgia originally was a prison colony under the direction of General James Oglethorpe.

By the mid-1700s, the inexpensive labor pool increasingly consisted of slaves from Africa and South America. Huge profits were made off their backs, their toil, their suffering. After the Civil War, and the abolishing of slavery, immigrants from Europe and China became the new "cheap labor." From 1870 to the early 1920s, waves of immigrants worked in factories and fields, mines and mills, helped build the railroad from east to west, and were the workers of the Industrial Revolution. They often worked in awful, dangerous conditions, putting in many hours and receiving little pay.

Their children and grandchildren realized the American dream.

Many of those immigrants endured poor working and living conditions, oppressive workplaces, and a lack of welcome and acceptance. Signs in windows said "Irish, need not apply" or "No Chinese." Many restaurants and other places of business refused service to people of certain ethnic backgrounds.

The working class had very few rights. Some industries: you worked at the factory, shopped at the factory store, and lived in factory housing.

The monopoly led to a lot of abuses. Owners became very rich. Workers often had spent their paycheck before payday at high-priced factory stores (the only places that would give them credit or advances). Workplace accidents and deaths were common in some industries. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York City on March 25, 1911 was one of the most prominent tragedies, "causing the death of 146 garment workers" and causing reforms and industry regulations. (*Wikipedia*)

The Depression reduced the need for foreign workers. There were no jobs. World War II would bring many women to the workplace, but the war also meant great loss. The U.S. had more than 415,000 casualties. Worldwide deaths totaled between 50 and 70 million. Europe (including Russia), North Africa, Japan, and other parts of Asia had the largest population losses. The postwar boom

brought a baby boom in the United States, but also brought in new workers from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and from Central and South America, legal and illegal. Many of them were needed "temporarily" to replace those we had lost.

Illegal immigration was popular in certain industries—especially those relying on "cheap labor." The fields and vineyards of California were two industries that hired a lot of newly migrating workers. Cesar Chavez (1927-93) would start a worker rights movement. Other migrant workers moved from place to place helping with harvesting and planting in many parts of the country. Factories in some cities and industries also began turning to undocumented laborers as unions became strong. Increased pay, new benefits, and reduced hours led to reduced profit margins and the desire to find new ways to cut labor costs.

Industries also began new post-war foreign expansion, sending jobs overseas where there were cheaper labor and operation costs and less government regulation.

The presence of "illegals" became a big issue by the mid-1960s in the West, Southwest, Chicago, and New York City. Beginning in the 1920s, federal immigration laws brought restrictions and limits to legal entry. Quotas were developed that especially affected poor would-be immigrants from countries friendly with the United States. Immigrants with specialized knowledge (scientists, inventors, doctors, professors, etc.) and/or political refugees from countries opposed to the U.S. were given immigration preference. Others had few legal options. Mexico historically has had some of the strictest quotas, and one of the largest pools of immigrants escaping ongoing poverty, land in the hands of the few, and a neglectful government. Even before the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, there were border disputes and a negative view of people of Mexican ancestry. Immigration from Mexico has always been a complicated issue (far more so than from our neighbor to the north—Canada with whom we share an even larger border).

New government programs also had a huge impact on the workplace. For some, welfare created an incentive not to work. The 1960s also saw a huge increase in divorces, children born out of wedlock, and changing attitudes about family, lifestyle, authority, government's role in the workplace, and the concept of work.

By the early 1970s, an economic recession and baby boomers graduating high school and college meant less need for immigrants to add to the labor pool and an immigration slowdown. It also brought new environmental laws that would greatly affect certain industries. Pittsburgh, once known as the "Steel City" now has almost no steel production.

The 1970s also brought Roe v. Wade (1973) and a massive expansion of abortion in our country. By the early 1990s, that generation would begin graduating from high school and the 1.5 million babies aborted a year would now be missing from the workplace.

Over the next 10 years, the influx of undocumented workers who entered the U.S. illegally would increase from approximately 4 million to more than 12 million. **Eight million undocumented replacing more than 12 million aborted babies.**

During that time the U.S. economy would flourish and certain industries would especially benefit from the illegal labor pool that provided "cheap labor." *What people were willing to pay for their products and services directly influenced their hiring process.*

Businesses will do this as long as the risk is low and the reward is high. Most of the immigrant workers are coming for a better life. Their status enables companies to pay less, make a higher profit, and sell their product for less to the general public gaining them market share and a competitive advantage. How we have gotten here is that the value we place on certain products and services determines the value of certain jobs. It's not based on human rights or the dignity of the human person. The "market" ultimately decides what people are paid. How much are you willing to pay for fruits and vegetables, for a steak dinner, for a new house? How much are you

willing to pay for a visit to a doctor, for your child's education, for your next tank of gas? If a "five dollar footlong" were 10 dollars, would you still buy it? Your answer shapes the marketplace, which determines pricing, wages, and hiring practices. The Catholic Church, especially since the 1890s, has spoken about workplace issues—workplace conditions, just wages, fairness, etc. They adhere to the morality of work and the marketplace, and the need for a system that values the person and human rights more than the product or profit margin. Our marketplace makes no sense! Should a movie cost more than a sandwich? Should movie stars and baseball players be paid more than teachers, fire personnel, and the police? Should entertainment be a higher value than education, safety and food? Should Sunday be a day of rest and a day for God or just another day to make money? We need to consider whether our thinking is in line with God's thinking.

 **Prayer** 

This week we pray for wisdom. The Holy Spirit brings God's wisdom to us. We need wisdom.



<b>"2010" Weekly Budget</b> .....	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected April 25 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$5,352.46
<b>Difference</b> .....	+\$ 2.46
<b>Second Collections</b>	
Second collection April 25 <sup>th</sup> "Catholic Home Missions" .....	\$1,062.44
<b>Campaign '10 Pledges:</b>	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 04/18/10.....	\$93,041.33
April 25 <sup>th</sup> collection.....	\$ 192.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$93,233.33
<b>Next Week's Second Collection</b>	
Next week's second collection will be for the St. Clements Building Fund.	

**Please pray for the people who are suffering:**

Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith- cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry-prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -leukemia, Maria Farias-breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Lou Brown-brain cancer, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, The people of Haiti & Chile-health & safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health, Serge Kastorsky-cancer, Terry Alan-bladder cancer, Lisa Clark-failed surgery, Betty Maddox-chemo, Donna Ivey-surgery& cancer, Cory Ivey-surgery, Darrin Ivey-health.



**Living the Paschal Mystery**

The gospels tell us over and over in so many ways that love means self sacrifice. We live the paschal mystery only when our own lives emulate the love of Jesus: giving one's all for the sake of another. In many human ways we already do this and could think of no other way to act: most parents sacrifice plenty for their children, we readily respond to others tragedies with gifts of money and service, we reach out to the perfect stranger on the street who is in need. In so many ways we already act out of the love that we need only do the everyday things we are already doing with new meaning: we share in Jesus' mission when we love. On the other hand, if an examination of our lives suggests that perhaps we are not as self-sacrificing as Jesus, then this gospel is an invitation to love more completely. What is at stake is a share in Jesus' everlasting life and glory. This is worth loving for! ~Living Liturgy

# Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2010

**First Reading: Acts 14:21-27**

They called the Church together and reported what God had done with them.

**Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a**

God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

**Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35**

I gave you a new commandment: love one another.

**Stewardship Thought** 

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples and us a new commandment: "Love one another." Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.


Saturday May 1, 5:30pm.....	First Communicants
Sunday, May 2, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 2, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 2, 11:30 am.....	Melissa Beeler (RIP)
Sunday, May 2, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 2, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Monday, May 3, 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Tuesday May 4, 12:15 pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, May 5, 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, May 5, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, May 6, 12:15 pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, May 7, 12:15pm..First Friday Mass.....	Jorge Carranza (Graduation)
Friday, May 7, 7:00pm.....	First Friday Mass in Spanish/ Adoration
Saturday May 8, 5:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 9, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 9, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, May 9, 11:30 am.....	All Mothers(Thanksgiving)
Sunday, May 9, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) All Mothers (Thanksgiving)
Sunday, May 9, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family



**Celebrating Mother's Day & Mary during the month of May**

In celebration of Our Blessed Mother during the month of May, Ignatius Press is offering 20% off on a great selection of Books, Films and Music CDs. With a wide selection of titles, any one of these would be the perfect gift to give your Mother on Mother's Day! If you haven't seen *The 13th Day* yet, what are you waiting for? Now is your chance to get the film, plus a free t-shirt which normally sells for \$15! Just pay \$24.95 for the DVD (there is no 20% discount applied) and you will automatically be sent a **free** large size t-shirt. This excellent, inspiring film and free t-shirt will make a very special Mother's Day Gift. **Offer ends Tuesday, May 4th, 2010 at 12:00 midnight EST. These prices are available online only through [Ignatius.com](http://Ignatius.com)**

**Parish Events**

	May 16, 11:30 a.m.: Graduation Mass (English)
	1:00 p.m.: Graduation Mass (Spanish)
	May 22 and 29: First Communion Masses (Spanish)
	May 23, 5:00 p.m.: Confirmation with AB Gregory

**Archdiocesan News**

Please join Ignatius House for an Easter Day of Reflection directed by Fr. Edd Salazar, SJ on **May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-3:00 pm**. Lunch will be served and Mass celebrated. Call **404.255.0503** or email [ihssecretary@bellsouth.net](mailto:ihssecretary@bellsouth.net) to register. A heartfelt donation is appreciated.