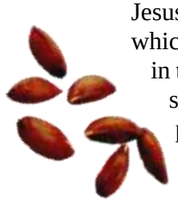
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 12, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

One of the heroic founders of our beloved country of United States is Benjamin Franklin who died in 1790. He was a printer, author, publisher, inventor, scientist, businessman, thinker, statesman and diplomat. He was a blessing to our country and to all of humanity.

For example, one day he received a gift of a whisk broom from India. He noticed a few seeds fastened to the wisps of the broom. Franklin planted them. When the first crop came up, he distributed the seeds among his friends and neighbors. Their crops flourished. In this way Franklin was responsible for introducing broom corn into the American colonies, and starting the American broom manufacturing industry.



You and I are called to do something like that. Jesus Christ gives us His truths – seeds – which we are to plant in our minds and then in the minds of others. Those truths, those seeds, Christ, gives us through the public worship of the Church He founded, through Catholic reading, through His inspired words, the Bible, and through preaching of His special servants, His priests.

Take a cue from Benjamin Franklin. Treasure the truths Christ gives us. Plant them. Share them with others. The priests' job is to tell you Christ's truth. Your job is to hear it and make it grow. In the words of Jesus: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

May I make a few suggestions on how to get the most out of homilies. You don't have to be a farmer or gardener to know that you have to prepare the soil for the seed. How helpful it would be if everyone on the way to Mass would prepare himself or herself for receiving God's truth; not, "Dear Lord, don't let Father talk too long today," but "Dear Lord, help Father give me some truths I can nourish for my good." Every worthwhile preacher prays that those who hear him will benefit from what he says, will provide fertile ground for the truths he is planting. How about returning the favor by praying for the preacher?

As you enter the church make the sign of the cross thoughtfully over your body, washing away the distractions of the world, the flesh and the devil. Make yourself open to the seed of God's truth. Listen carefully to the prayers and readings, especially the Gospel. Pay close attention to the homily. Try to understand, try to remember. Christ, is speaking to you through His priest, however limited that priest may be. The man in the pulpit can be an effective instrument of Christ. He can also be ineffective. The message may come through loud and clear, or it may be dull and garbled. But it is an important message. Keep the soil ready. Be ready to receive it.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 14**	**N/A**
Joey O. Mariano (Thanksgiving)		Mariano Family
Wed.	**July 15**	**N/A**
Asuncion Mateo †		Bernardina †
Thur.	**July 16**	**N/A**
Luciano C. Escala †		Mariano Family
Fri.	**July 17**	**N/A**
Anna Rossi †		Roberta Rossi
Sat.	**July 18**	**N/A**
Fr. Ciaran Dillon †		Anne Brown
Sun.	**July 19**	**N/A**
Anna Rossi †		David & Linda Rossi
Port Costa		**N/A**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††