Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 29, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The Gospel story this Sunday is one of the best examples of Jesus the Teacher. St. Matthew depicts Jesus as the Moses-like figure who went up the mountain. He sat down, as if in the chair of Moses, and the blessed ones, the disciples, came to his feet. He opened his mouth and wisdom came forth. He taught them. Both Jewish- Christians and Gentile-Christians, both living in an age of conflict and choice, could learn how to follow Christ wisely.

What is it that Jesus the Rabbi offers? The Beatitudes are not easy, clear answers. The learning is not neatly packaged like a television commercial. He offers a new set of attitudes, a style and stance of paradox. The disciple is given no other wordly reward system which will make the practical living-out bearable. The Jesus of St. Matthew's Beatitudes offers criteria that place the Christian in the midst of the world and at the heart of its conflicts in an age where various religious allegiances vie with one another.

Poverty in spirit will bring the dominion of heaven. Mourning will issue in comfort. Meekness will overturn the isolation of greed. Righteousness will be satisfied. Merciful action will result in mercy given as a gift. Purity of heart, seeking God single-mindedly will allow one to see God. Peacemakers will be children of God. The persecuted will be victors. The rub is there; we rejoice in the midst of persecution. These criteria put us into the midst of the this- worldly. The wise, teaching Rabbi is Emmanuel. He is always with us as we are baptized, immersed in the concerns of this world. Doing justice and peacemaking and giving the cup of refreshing water will be a costly discipleship. We count not the cost because we have no right. Discipleship, paradoxical as it is, brings a heroism in the here and now. How surprisingly God works. God uses us in our weakness to shame the strong; God chooses our limited knowledge and giftedness so that all humans might boast in the presence of God. The source of our boasting is not our achievement, is not our knowledge, is not our taming of the universe. It is our knowledge of God learned in discipleship and service. God is the source of our life in Christ Jesus, whom God makes our wisdom.

We come to the table at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a table that is the foretaste of the heavenly banquet. But we come to the table to eat the scroll of wisdom. This wisdom is from Christ the Teacher, Christ the Rabbi. Its eating brings learning for Christian life and wise action in our world. Such wisdom can enable us to help fashion God's reign in the human city where Emmanuel dwells.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**January 31**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**February 1**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**February 2**	**11:00AM**
Jessica Ouk		Ma & Pa
Fri.	**February 3**	**11:00AM**
Thomas Wolthuis †		Roxene
Sat.	**February 4**	**4:30PM**
Bill Valli †		Bruce & Gina
Sun.	**February 5**	**9:00AM**
Matt Airoldi †		Bill & Diane
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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