



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Several television commercials underscore one of the purposes of the parable of the talents. The caption of these commercials is "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." The viewer is transported into a series of scenes in which an obviously talented student is faced with the reality that his or her family is unable to pay for college education. In one of these commercials the request for financial support for black colleges is made by Leontyne Price, a popular opera singer, whose artistic gifts were discovered and nurtured in racial-ethnic minority institutions, the black church and the black college. Would the artistic gifts of Ms. Price have been lost if these nurturing environments had not been available for her? How much God-given talent is being lost because of social marginalization induced by poverty?

The mind, a gift of God, is indeed a terrible thing to waste. Any misuse or under use of capabilities directly contradicts that which is required of us. The parable of the talents in this weekend's gospel underscores the requirement that humanity should not bury any gift, any talent, no matter how small it may appear. The Lord will return unannounced, like a thief in the night, and will expect increased returns on our gifts. What, then, of the contemporary youth, gifted and willing, and yet faced with obstacles which are not of his or her own creation? How is God speaking through this?

We turn to the gospel lesson, not to find answers to questions that we raise, but to, listen for the word of the Lord. The parable must be understood in the light of the historical context of the story. The Jewish community, steeped in the law and its understanding of the truth and the demands of God, was under heavy burden of accountability. Strict accountability created a need for the religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees, to guard the law, to protect it intact in preparation for the return of God. By their method of conserving and protecting the law, religious truth became paralyzed, partially understood by a few, unclear to most of the faithful. Like the single talent the truth was buried to the ground.

Too often talents are measured by the standards of one culture and then superimposed upon other cultures. Such measurement has discouraged many

persons from discovering their own particular talents and usefulness in society. The gospel message is clear: each child of God is of worth and of value in God's holy purpose. Each person has something to offer for the good of the whole. These gifts are best identified when individuals feel comfortable, wanted, loved and needed. People need assurance of their "somebodiness" in order to develop to their fullest.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Sunday Collection - November 19th

- St. Rose, Crockett \$1529
St. Patrick Mission \$195

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Thanksgiving Mass

Just a reminder that Mass next Thursday, November 23rd, is the Thanksgiving Mass, and will be at 9:00AM, not 11:00AM. There will be no 11 o'clock Mass on Thanksgiving.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows include Tues. November 21 11:00AM, Wed. November 22 11:00AM, Thur. November 23 9:00AM, Fri. November 24 11:00AM, Sat. November 25 4:30PM, Sun. November 26 9:00AM, and Port Costa 11:00AM.

Virtus Training

Virtus will help you learn how to see signs of abuse, how to help those who have been abused in the past and how to avoid creating an environment where abuse can happen. Taking these classes can help ALL THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE AND SOCIETY!

The website is https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus. If you are unsure of doing this at home, or don't have access to the internet, we are happy to have you come to the office and take the class on the computer here with help. Remember the online class does not have to be taken all at once; you may do it at your own pace. NO MATTER WHAT POSTION YOU SERVE IN OUR PARISH, YOU NEED TO DO THIS TRAINING!



The office will have shortened hours next week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. It will be open on Monday and Tuesday from 8-12. Thank you!

Second Collection

Our special collection today supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). More than 37 million people in the United States live in poverty. CCHD supports those living in poverty by funding programs that empower local communities to address the challenges, they face. It identifies and addresses the unique obstacles people face as they work to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout. Thank you for your contribution.



Guadalupe Celebration

St. Rose will be celebrating La Virgen de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe) on December 10th, a few days before the feast day. All are invited to meet in the parking lot across from the hall at 8:15AM, and begin our procession at 8:30AM, which will lead into the church. The procession will be welcomed by a mariachi band, and then we will have hot chocolate and some sweets after the 9:00AM Mass. If you would like to donate some baked goods or flowers for the event, please let the office know (510-787-2052). This is a wonderful celebration that was started many years ago by a late parishioner from St. Patrick Mission, and we would love to see it continue and grow.

