Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 2, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

All peoples celebrate certain occasions with a meal or festive banquet, be it a wedding feast, a birthday party or any similar occasion. A banquet is a symbol of mutual rejoicing and sharing, a sign of communion of love between those who give it and those who partake of it. Most religions also have a sacred banquet or meal in which the sacrifices offered to the Godhead are consumed in order to partake of the divine blessing accompanying the meal.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus has the crowds sit down on the grass like at mealtime., for he intends it as such. Then he distributes the bread he has broken for them and the fish. He himself fed them and they were all satisfied, though it was through the apostles that he fed them. The whole scene is depicted in such a manner that it makes us think at once of the Eucharistic meal where he would be surrounded by the same apostles and would feed them with the Living Bread which is himself. Christ himself feeds each individual with his own Body and Blood, that is, he gives himself totally to each one who comes to him hungering for the Food of the strong. There he is no longer satisfied to give us mere bread as he did with the multitudes in the wilderness, but he gives us himself., and indeed to each one in particular. It is through his ministers that he gives himself to each one, and this is well brought out when the minister of the Eucharist holds for a brief moment the sacred host before each communicant and says "The Body of Christ." The minister represents Christ who gives himself individually to each communicant. Thus, it is not the communicant that feeds himself by taking the Sacred Host, but the minister who gives it to him or her. How great is the love of Christ! He not only lived for us. He not only died for us. But he so loves us that he continues to give himself totally to each one who comes to him. What greater gift, and what greater love can he bestow on his brothers and sisters in the flesh.

Yet even the Eucharistic meal, though it is Christ in reality, is still a further sign of the banquet of heaven, the messianic banquet of the end kingdom. There God will give himself through his divine Son to each of the elect, and fill him or her with the fullness of divine joy and blessings. Such is the immense love of God for each of Christ's chosen ones, that he wishes to pour himself out in love into every heart that celebrates the heavenly banquet in the Scriptures.

Each time the banquet-symbol of the sacred meal occurs in the scriptures, let us reflect on the joys that await the chosen ones of Christ, and prepare ourselves with the proper wedding garment to attend the heavenly banquet.

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.	**August 4**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**August 5**	**N/A**
Margaret Schellenberger †		Alice Marshall
Thur.	**August 6**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 7**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 8**	**N/A**
David Botta †		Mr. & Mrs. Larry DeTomasi
Sun.	**August 9**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**N/A**
Sister Margeta Krchnak †		Theresa

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