Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A grandmother celebrating her Golden Wedding Anniversary was asked of the secret of her long and happy marriage. She said, "On my wedding day, I decide to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of the marriage, I would overlook." A guest asked the good woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were. The grandmother replied, "To tell you the truth, I never did get around to making the list. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, "Lucky for him that's just one of the ten."

This weekend, in all the readings, they carry the same theme. That is of forgiveness. In the first reading which is taken from the Book of Sirach, we hear one of the wisest advice for a covenanted people. It can almost be put in a nutshell: Do unto others as you would have the Lord do unto you. The similarity with the fifth petition of the Our Father is evident. In the second reading, which is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, this short passage is set between an exhortation to judge one's fellow human being with charity and understanding, for each and every Christian belongs entirely to the Lord, and is endeavoring to serve him alone. To him belongs universal dominion, won by his death and resurrection. Thus, he is Lord of both the living and the dead. If we serve others, it is for his sake.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are presented with a story of a king, an absolute monarch, who desires to settle accounts with the officials of his realm. One was brought in that, he had spent a fabulous amount lavishly and was in extremely great debt, living far beyond his means and borrowing from royal revenues. Since he was simply unable to pay the debt, the king, as was the custom of the time, ordered him to be sold with his entire family into slavery. Falling down, the official begs for mercy and promises to pay all (which is clearly impossible), if given the opportunity. With royal magnanimity and generosity, the King grants him his freedom, pardons the offense and remits the entire debt. Every reason for him to rejoice and be grateful. Hardly out of the king's presence, he meets a fellow servant of the king who owes him a trifling sum, and with physical violence demands immediate payment of the debt. A plea for mercy on the same terms he had obtained mercy from the king is utterly unheeded. He has the man jailed. Indignant fellow servants report the matter to the king. Greatly incensed, he recalls the official, publicly rebukes him severely, and condemns him for his mean and unmerciful treatment of his servant. This time he is delivered to the torturers for good.

Unless we forgive our fellow human beings their offenses, God will not forgive ours. God's infinite mercy will always forgive us provided we always forgive our fellow human being. There is no proportion at all between the two.

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.	**September 15**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**September 16**	**N/A**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**September 17**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**September 18**	**N/A**
Alice Littleton †		Family
Sat.	**September 19**	**4:30PM**
John III & John Heuser Sr. †		Trudi
Sun.	**September 20**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		

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