Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 16, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This weekend's Gospel is a story of dogged persistence, but it also reveals a deep insight into the Heart of the Savior. A mother had a little daughter whom she loved dearly, but for days the little one had been writhing with a strange ailment, and every available medicine had been of no avail. Beside herself with grief, the mother was helpless to do anything more. Then she heard that the Wonderworker from Nazareth was in the vicinity at the border of her country. He was being hailed as the long- awaited Son of David. He had healed many, fed thousands in the wilderness, cast out demons, and was kindness itself to all. Courage came back to the mother's heart. Though she was a pagan, she approached him with deep faith and humility, convinced that he could heal her daughter, "Son of David, have pity on me." She cried. "My daughter is sorely troubled by a demon."

There is a sudden silence. All look at the master, expecting a sign from him. But Jesus says not even one word. They pass on. They leave her prostrate on the ground. Her prayer was not heard. Her little child would not be cured. But the mother is determined. Again, she runs after the Master. Again, she shouts and continues to shout her request: "Have pity on my little one who writhes in pain at home." Then the apostles intervene. But not in her favor. Her continued clamor embarrasses them and they beg the Master to send her away. This time Jesus speaks. But what does He say? "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel". That sounds fine. She was a pagan. The Son of David is Israel's Messiah. His mission was not for the pagans. The conclusion was evident.

The second blow is still harder to bear, since it sounds final. The mother was crushed. She was unheard, unanswered. A woman with less determination would have given up then and there. Yet there is nothing too hard for a mother's heart, when it concerns one of her own. With a last supreme effort, she manages to buoy up her faith and hope to the utmost, and coming before Jesus she falls at His feet, with one word: "Lord, help me", Surely the kind heart of the Wonder-worker will not refuse this last persistent plea. He speaks. But what he says was totally unexpected, almost unbelievable. "It is not fair to take the bread that belongs to the children and cast it to the house dogs." The disciples gasp. The air is tense.

But the good woman stood that final test. Cleverly she entered into the picture given by the Master, and rose to the occasion. She was humble enough to accept the insinuation, but she has a ready answer: "Oh! Yes Lord! The little dogs do feed on the crumbs and the scraps that fall from their Master's table!" At that, even the Master could not repress His great admiration. "O woman, great is your faith!" You have won out; you have stood the test. Go home now, your little one is cured!"

The woman's persistence won the day. And her example will give courage and faith to thousands who hear of her courage and her faith.

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 18**	**N/A**
Essex & Janice Ianne (anniversary)		Mom & Dad
Wed.	**August 19**	**N/A**
Kyle Arriola (thanksgiving)		
Thur.	**August 20**	**N/A**
Ronnie L Escala (birthday/thanksgiving)		Mariano Family
Fri.	**August 21**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 22**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Sun.	**August 23**	**N/A**
Edgar Allan & Theresa (anniversary)		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**N/A**
Sister Marget Krchnak C.D.P.F.		Theresa

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