



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

There is a paradox about poverty in the New Testament. On the one hand, Jesus praises poverty. He tells us that a poor man is blessed, fortunate. In many places he insists that money is a danger to us. On the other hand, he is aware that poverty is an evil which must be overcome, and he teaches that we should help to alleviate the poverty of others.



This paradox appears in this Sunday's Gospel about the parable of the rich man and the beggar. Jesus obviously does not approve of the condition of the beggar, who is in a pitiable situation. And yet he equally disapproves of the rich man, who by worldly standards was a great success. What then is the ideal? Is it to be found somewhere between wealth and destitution in a kind of a compromise? Not necessarily. Wealth is an extremely relative thing. Someone who may pass for a poor man in this country would be counted extremely well off in a country like Nigeria, and the wealthy land owner of Ecuador might find it difficult to make ends meet in the economic system of the United States.

Jesus is not concerned with bank accounts or the lack thereof. His preaching about poverty does not center around quantity of money. Rather, it zeroes in on a quality necessary for Christian living, Most of us today could not be counted as being either extremely poor or extremely rich. Most of us fit somewhere in the middle. But remember that the ideal does not necessarily come between wealth and destitution in a kind of compromise. The question is how free are we. Are we satisfied with moderation, or deep in our hearts are constantly yearning for more and more? Most Americans seem to live to the extent of their income, even after the income increases. Inflation is not the only reason. In our society, we are pretty well geared to spending our money on ourselves.

One of the best tests of our freedom from attachment to money is our willingness to help others who are in need. It's true that we hear many appeals for money, both in and outside church. It is easy for us to quiet our consciences by telling ourselves that we really don't have anything to spare. But remember that

wealth is relative. What may seem like scraps to us, represents a means of survival to others, that is the very least, for we must keep in mind that our material goods are a gift from God. The comfortable circumstances that most of us enjoy in this country are given to us by God, so that we may be free to practice charity to others, and to enjoy the mental leisure, we need to be mindful of God, as we are here at the Mass. Our worship of God, the source of all goodness, must overflow in a generosity toward others. That overflow should be motivated by love, but it helps to remember, as the rich man in the Gospel parable failed to do, that there is God who will judge us in our use of his material gifts.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with columns for Day, Date, Time, and Intention. Includes entries for Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun, and Port Costa.



Sunday Collection - September 18th

Table with 2 columns: Location and Amount. Rows for St. Rose, Crockett and St. Patrick Mission.

Thank you again to all who support our Parish



Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation program started September 18th! Registration forms are available in the office. There is still time to join!

CCD: and preparation for First Holy Communion every other Sunday at 10:15 AM (must be in 1st grade).

CONFIRMATION: This is a two-year formation program. Classes will be every other Sunday at 10:15AM and one weekday a month with Father Leo.

R.C.I.A. for those wanting to become Catholics. It is a two-year formation program for adults. Weekly meeting. Please contact Father Leo.

Parish Council

Reminder, parish council meeting next Tuesday, September 27th at 7pm in the hall.



Event poster for Crockett Lions Club Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at the Boy Scout Hall.



Special Second Collection

Next weekend we will have our annual second collection for the Catholic Voice. The Diocese has removed our annual Catholic Voice Assessment, but these funds help keep this communication available to all in our Diocese.

