Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 30, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In early Christian centuries, pagan Rome ridiculed a crucified Savior by painting a caricature of him in the form of a donkey crucified to a cross. But the cross triumphed, and agonism collapsed. Today the cross of Christ stands high on hundreds of church steeples in the holy city of Rome. The pagan temples are mere monuments of antiquity. The "folly of the cross" has become the wisdom of the Christian world.

That the Messiah, their long-awaited Deliverer and Savior would be a suffering Savior was farthest from the minds of those who had followed Jesus. They had been under the dominion of foreign powers for so many years, they had often been weighed down by corruption in government circles, as well as exorbitant taxes and unjust treatment of the ordinary person of the street, that they longed for the great king who would restore Israel to her glory, as the prophets had foretold, and the psalmist had sung in the Temple liturgy. And now, just after all the apostles had agreed through Peter their spokesman, that Jesus was that promised Deliverer, that long-awaited king of Israel, all their hopes had apparently been dashed to the ground, by the revelation Jesus had just made, that he would suffer great torments at the hands of the leaders in Israel and be put to death. They hardly heard the last part of his prophecy that he would be raised on the third day; at any rate, it made little impression on them, for it was unheard of that anyone should return from the realm of the dead.

So, Peter remonstrated. He tried to dissuade Jesus from following that path that seemed to him to lead to utter failure and ruin. It must happen to him. It simply could not happen to the Messiah of Israel. It is not often that anger is attributed to Jesus in the gospels, but this time he is filled with a holy anger. Will even his devoted apostles, and above all St. Peter, try to dissuade him from the path that he knows clearly to be the will of the Father for the salvation of his fellowmen and women? It is a real temptation to listen to these close friends of his who loved him dearly, persuading him to take an easier path and forget the harsh measures which the Father laid out for him. How subtle the temptation! Why must the Messiah-king of Israel submit to such atrocities and even die for the people? Is there no alternative? But Jesus resisted at once and vehemently any such suggestion. It was like the subtle temptation of Satan in the desert at the outset of his public career.

The words of Jesus are clear: "If you want to be my follower, you must take up your cross, but first deny yourself whatever stands in opposition to my ideals, whatever comes between me and you, and the yoke of the cross will not be heavy. "What will it profit you if you even gain the whole world and ruin yourself in the process, ruin yourself for all eternity!" Following me, says the Lord, is no child's play. Your entire eternity depends on it

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 1**	**N/A**
Janice Ianne (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Wed.	**September 2**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**September 3**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**September 4**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**September 5**	**N/A**
Regina Villanueva (birthday)		Lily Militar
Sun.	**September 6**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**N/A**
Walter Ligon†		Mary & Moira

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