Twenty Eigth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 10, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

How often those who are exceedingly rich find life extremely boring, despite the fact that they have everything that money can buy. Youth from well-to do families are found involved in drug addiction and exotic experiences just to relive the monotony of their lives. Some years ago, a famous inventor in one of the Eastern United States was found dead in his bed. He had built up a great business empire and had become a multi-millionaire. They found the revolver next to him and a note that read: “My work is done. Why wait”? Of what use to him was all his wealth, the great name, the world- wide prestige?

Is not the attitude of the Lord toward riches unexpectedly harsh? In themselves, riches are not evil. Whatever is in the universe is good, coming as it does from the creative hand of God. Temporal goods were often allotted to humankind to assist him in his tiresome journey toward the spiritual and the eternal. This weekend's gospel states that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Some have thought that the eye of the needle was a low gate leading to Jerusalem, and a camel would be able to pass though it only with great difficulty. But there is no such gate with that name. Jesus words are to be taken literally. One who has his or her heart set only on the goods of this world is aiming in the wrong direction, and it does not lead to the kingdom of heaven. Moreover, all the money in the world will not be able to purchase entrance into that kingdom. Salvation is God's gift to humankind, and no one relying on his or her riches will attain it.

In the eyes of Jesus, there is only one Good, that is God. That is why his exhortation is to all his followers: “Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also” (Matthew 6:19- 21). The rich man in the parable of the beggar Lazarus lay helpless at his gate, not even receiving the left overs from the rich man's sumptuous banquets. But in the next life the tables were turned. The rich man turns beggar and asks for a mere drop of water, which is denied him. (Luke 16:24f.) Therefore, the Lord exhorts his disciples to make use of the goods of this world to come to the aid of others, and to help those in need, for these in turn will befriend them at the judgment seat of God.

Jesus invited the rich man in the gospel to total renunciation in order to obtain the Supreme Good which is God himself. But the man preferred his worldly goods. What will our response be if Christ invites us in the same manner? Or what is our response if his Spirit deep within our hearts inspires us to use the goods of his world to help the poor and the needy and to champion the cause of those who are oppressed? We leave behind our material goods when we die, but the good use we make of them will last forever. In the Kingdom, many who were last shall be first and the foremost here below will be among the last. God is never outdone in generosity.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 12**	**11:00AM**
Dolores Koehne †		Your brother Mike
Wed.	**October 13**	**11:00AM**
Natalie Scheflo & Baby		Olivia Austria Edwardes
Thur.	**October 14**	**11:00AM**
Manuel Morales †		Your Children
	(Happy Birthday)	
Fri.	**October 15**	**11:00AM**
Joe Quiapo †		Quiapo Family
Sat.	**October 16**	**4:30PM**
Robert & Lydia		Banaga Family
Sun.	**October 17**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Frances Hallekamp †		Family

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