Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 17, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When the explorers opened up the Far East and the New World to European nations some centuries ago, thousands sought their fortunes in those discovered lands which promised wealth, success and fame. Some did obtain these objectives but only after much hardships and arduous toil, for it involved re-adjusting to new climate and conditions, new situations and challenges. Those who did not adjust were doomed to disappointments.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has unfurled his banner for us to follow him into an adventure that will challenge the best in anyone. He is not out to conquer lands and acquire wealth, but to conquer humankind for the kingdom of God the Father, so that God may reign fully over all hearts in love and lasting peace. This is humankind's perfect happiness. To follow Christ will mean a change of humankind's interior aims and ideals, but he holds out to him or her his sublime doctrine which can transform sinners to saints; solid principles for a life in justice and love; and the possession of himself, the Lord, in friendship and love, a union that is all-absorbing and all- demanding, leading straight to the Heart of God in the participation of God's own Spirit.

The Good News he asks us to believe in is primarily himself, God giving himself to each individual person in his Son, first in obedient sacrifice throughout life until death in the cross, all for humankind, then in the sacrificial meal which re-enacts and makes present his sacrificial giving of self in the Eucharist, and finally in the end- reality of which the Eucharist is the sign and seal, when God is possessed in complete and perpetual love in the final gift of himself. Such is the stupendous import of the Good News.

The material-minded person has little interest in the reign of God over him or her. It never enters into his or her calculations, which are merely bound up with the transitory and fleeting things in life. The sensual and carnal person wants nothing to do with God's reign, for it will deprive him or her of the kind of pleasure for which he or she craves. But once the grace of the Spirit has touched the little heart of humankind, and he or she listens to Christ's beckoning to him or her and is willing to reform his or her life and follow him, there ensues a remarkable change, and one is soon aware of a liberation, a quickening of spirit, a rebirth of his or her whole being, that life St. Paul the Apostle he considers all past possessions as mere rubbish, and longs to be caught up by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:9).

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.	**January 19**	**N/A**
Robert Pallotta †		Mr. & Mrs. Donald Angotti
Wed.	**January 20**	**N/A**
Gerry Rose †		Trudi Jensen
Thur.	**January 21**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Fri.	**January 22**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Sat.	**January 23**	**4:30PM**
Robert Pallotta †		Bill & Diane Thomas
Sun.	**January 24**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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