Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 19, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Everyone has heard of the Trojan horse. For ten years the Greeks in ancient times besieged Troy, but were unable to conquer it and rescue Helen who had been kidnapped from Sparta. Then they hit upon an ingenious plan. They built a large wooden horse, hid Greek soldiers inside it, and placed it at the gates of Troy as a votive offering to the gods. Then they sailed away. Unsuspecting, the Trojans took the wooden horse into their city amid great rejoicing. But that night the soldiers hidden within crept out and unlocked the gates of Troy. Meantime the Greek fleet returned, conquered the city and destroyed it. In the course of centuries "fifth columnists" have often undermined and brought a country to ruin.

Why does the Lord allow so much evil in his Church on Earth? In the course of centuries there has been total stagnation in places, cupidity for high honors, neglect of duty, bad example, misuse of property and funds, lack of concern for the poor and the needy, and many other evils. Are not the People of God, leaders as well as the faithful, called to be as holy as Christ their Head is holy? Are they not expected to live up to their baptismal commitment to Christ, and to put away the things of darkness? Did not Christ make his Church responsible for the conversion and sanctification of humankind? Yet to this day, conditions in the People of God leave much to be desired?

The parable of the darnel shows us why. It is the mystery of evil in the world at large and in the Church in particular. It is the enemy within,who endeavors above all to infiltrate the People of God. Christ has sown the good deed seed, and fitted out his flock with well-tested shepherds. But there is another force at work whose sole purpose is to ruin the work of those who try to spread the kingdom of God. It is he who has scattered injurious seed, to choke and uproot the good, to tear away the wheat from the field of Christ. The Lord is aware of it, for he is Lord of the universe, and all things are in his hands. If he tolerates evil, there must be a good purpose he has in mind.

Evil in the Church ought not to surprise us, for every person remains human and prone to evil even after he or she committed himself or herself to Christ. But what is needed is to be on guard against the destructive influence of the Evil one. This influence is multiple today and often it is not recognized as such. Not only does it show itself in the utterly unchristian tenets and judgments of a modern neo-pagan world, but even in some of the proposals of leaders of God's people. It shows itself in utter disregard for any authority, even that granted by Christ to his Church. It shows itself in a watering down of the apostolic faith and completely relaxed interpretation of Christian morals. Are we to form our value-judgments today by the pagan tenets of the world in which we live, or by those gleaned from the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the teachings of those who represent him? How the Evil One strives to mislead God's people in these matters?

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.	**July 21**	**N/A**
Mary & Medoro Pagni		Trudi Jensen
Wed.	**July 22**	**N/A**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**July 23**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**July 24**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**July 25**	**N/A**
Nancy & Jim Dooley		Trudi Jensen
Sun.	**July 26**	**N/A**
David Ponti †		Franca
Port Costa		**N/A**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††