Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 23, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Thomas Edison was one of the greatest inventors of all time. Not many know that Edison, although not religious himself, had a keen respect for people who were genuinely religious. For 64 years he gave generously to nuns who asked his help, especially to the Little Sisters of the Poor. He had a great admiration for Pope Pius XI. On learning that the Holy Father was daily flooded with correspondence that demanded his personal attention, the Wizard constructed a special dictating machine, finished in gold and silver, and ivory. In gratitude the Pontiff sent a medal with his personal blessing to the scientist, a medal Edison treasured with special affection.

We heard in the Gospel reading this weekend how our Lord Jesus appointed St. Peter the first pope, how He would build His Church on this Rock, that nothing would overthrow that Rock and that Church. We could pile up proofs that Jesus intended St. Peter to be the leader of His Church, that the long line of popes have been recognized as such, that many of our non-Catholic friends, like Thomas Edison, have a great admiration for the person of the pope and the office he holds. They recognize true goodness and true greatness.

For instance, Will Rogers once paid this tribute to the Holy Father: "He is the only leader in the world today that we know what he means when he speaks." How true that is, right down to our own time.

Some years ago, a group of American congressmen called on Pope Pius XII. In the group was Senator Alben Barkley, later Vice President. All were thrilled by the presence and words of His Holiness. Before the Pontiff could give his blessing, he received one, Senator Barkley jumped up, grasped the Pope's hand, and exclaimed: "God bless you, Pope, you are doing a wonderful job."

Myron Taylor, an Episcopalian, and personal representative of President Roosevelt to the Vatican was loud in his praise of the Pope and the system of governing the Catholic Church. How the world, especially the non-Catholic world, responded to the love of good Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II, now Saint John the XXIII and Saint John Paul II.

Some eyebrows were raised but the comment was most favorable when St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Denver, Colorado, greeted the crowning off Pope Paul VI with his message on its bulletin board: "God bless Pope Paul VI. May God give divine guidance and strength to Paul VI as he would lead Christendom to greater love and concern for people of all nations."

Many non-Catholics, even non-Christians, respect the Pope, like our present Pope Francis. All the more so, we of the household of the faith must have a deep, personal devotion to the Holy Father. He represents Jesus Christ to us. He is the rock in which our Church is built.

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.	**August 18**	**N/A**
David Ponti †		Mom
Wed.	**August 19**	**N/A**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**August 20**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 21**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 22**	**N/A**
Frank Avalan †		Franca
Sun.	**August 23**	**N/A**
Elyse (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Port Costa		**N/A**
People of the Parish		

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