Fifth Sunday of Easter — April 28, 2024

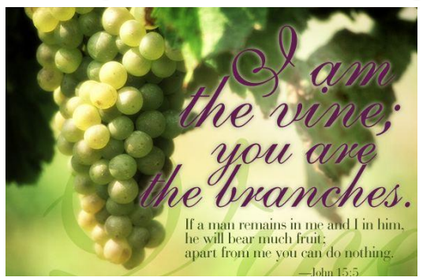
From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Stephen Curry is the life of the Golden State Warriors basketball team. From him the entire team derives ever new energy, courage and fighting spirit. When he is absent, things begin to fall apart. When he is present, everything clicks. There is team work, precision, and a real show of sportsmanship. And they score high. It is the will of the Father that all who are one in Christ bear abundant fruit, that is, enjoy a truly successful Christian life in this world and in the next, both for themselves and all for whom they abhor. But this will require an ever-on-going close union with Christ. His saints must be our arms, his thoughts our thoughts. Abiding in him will constitute a daily and constant battle with the forces that draw away from Christ, the evil influences that try to sever from them source of all holiness.

That is why the Father "prunes" the branches, as Jesus mentions. He prunes them by cutting off useless attachments or harmful connections that we have thoughtlessly made. Such "pruning" is painful to human nature, and when such are one's lot, people often ask what they have done to deserve such treatment from God whom they thought they were serving faithfully. How many can see behind the trials, the hand of the Father not punishing them but purifying them, cleansing, detaching them from whatever hinders growth and fruitful union with Christ? Otherwise, the results of one's striving are very mediocre, and they will not bear the abundance of fruit which the Father has in mind.

Patient suffering is the real test of faith. It is easy to raise the Lord when all things are running smoothly, when one's health is in good condition, and when one is accepted on all sides with respect and in friendship. But let there come into one's life some troublesome sickness, a long-drawn-out misunderstanding in which one's reputation has been marred; then patient long suffering will show up the quality of the branch that is destined to bear much fruit. Here one needs prayer, one's own and those of others, to see the sun behind the dark clouds. St. Therese of the Child Jesus spent the last years of her young life confined in bed on account of a serious case of tuberculosis, but it was those years of patient suffering that gleaned her the harvest of so many souls for heaven. Can we learn from the examples of the saints how to bear abundant fruit?

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**April 30**	**11:00AM**
Marcella de Leon		Imelda
Wed.	**May 1**	**11:00AM**
Maria Victoria Velasco † (death anniversary)		John Camaso
Thur.	**May 2**	**11:00AM**
Karen Mary † & Ruth Colleen Cartwright †		Family
Fri.	**May 3**	**11:00AM**
Arthur Balagot (healing)		Gloria
Sat.	**May 4**	**4:30PM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Sun.	**May 5**	**9:00AM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish/ Mother's Day Novena		

† †††††††