



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In the old cowboy films set in the Wild West, it was the sheriff's job to catch the outlaw. Posters were printed depicting the wanted man and hung in saloons, usually with the caption: "Wanted Dead or Alive" and offering a reward. Modern police departments have developed a more sophisticated version of this. Where the criminal is unknown, they create what is called an identikit picture, from descriptions they get from interviewing eye-witnesses. A likeness is built up from the size of the mouth, nose and chin, the height of the forehead, the spacing between the eyes etc. The resulting portrait, surprisingly often leads to the apprehension of the criminal.

It would be interesting to attempt to produce an identikit, not of the physical traits but of the personality make-up (or moral traits) of certain types. Let's pick the obvious one, the one we are most familiar with, the pop-idol, media -mogul, star-athlete, leading-politician, T.V. Personality, the one everybody is talking about. Mr. Success himself. The one we all yearn to be, model ourselves on, and encourage our children to be. The new secular saint.

He or she must be highly motivated. Money is the great driving force. Money means power. As Cardinal Newman put it: "All bow down before wealth. Wealth is that to which in the multitude of men pay an instinctive image." To get it and the good life that comes with it, he or she must be aggressive, rough riding subordinates, trampling in underlings, ruthless with incompetents, unscrupulous with competitors. Needless to say, an ambivalence towards the law and an indifference to morality are prerequisites. The rash of corruption scandals presently making the headlines, not only in Italy but right across the globe, leave little doubt about that. Worldly success is rarely achieved with clean hands. Throw in a few other features, such as pride, avarice, covetousness, anger, and lust, and our portrait is complete.

No modern image – maker or star creator would look twice at someone whose outstanding qualities were humility, compassion, poverty, self-denial and selfless dedication to the service of others. Yet, these as the Sermon on the Mount outlines for us in this weekend's gospel, form the identikit of Christians.

The beatitudes we are promised, confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement -however beneficial it may be – such as science, technology or art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and all love.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Mass Intentions for the Week

|                                   |                    |                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tues.</b>                      | <b>February 18</b> | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| Sante Cerri † ICF #14             |                    |                |
| <b>Wed.</b>                       | <b>February 19</b> | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| Living Memorial                   |                    |                |
| <b>Thur.</b>                      | <b>February 20</b> | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| Thanksgiving Ed & Mae             |                    |                |
| <b>Fri.</b>                       | <b>February 21</b> | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| Special Intentions                |                    |                |
| <b>Sat.</b>                       | <b>February 22</b> | <b>4:30PM</b>  |
| John & Gen Heuser † Trudi         |                    |                |
| <b>Sun.</b>                       | <b>February 23</b> | <b>9:00AM</b>  |
| Czarina Clara Lacsina Lolo & Lola |                    |                |
| <b>Port Costa</b>                 |                    | <b>11:00AM</b> |
| People of the Parish              |                    |                |



Sunday Collection -February 9<sup>th</sup>

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| St. Rose, Crockett  | \$1340 |
| St. Patrick Mission | \$215  |

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

\*\*\*In able to meet our 2025 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. \*\*\*

**Save the Date**  St. Rose Fish Fry!

We know it may seem early, but it is time to start planning our annual Fish Fry! Please mark the date on your calendars, Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>!

SHOES

St. Rose will continue to collect shoes for the unhoused since it was so successful. Please remember that we really need shoes that will be warm, as well as useful in the outdoors, i.e. boots, sneakers, casual shoes, etc.

Thank you!



Tax Time

If you need a copy of your contributions for 2024, please call the office (510-787-2052). Leave your name, phone number and address (if it has changed) and we will be happy to help out.



After years of dedicated service, Mike Thomas will be retiring from maintaining the St. Rose grounds at the end of March. We thank him for all the hours that have been given from keeping the weeds at bay to battling the fruiting trees in the courtyard!

With that being said, any volunteers that would like to give some time with landscaping/yard maintenance are encouraged to let Father know! No one is expected to take all of this on by themselves, so even if you only want to give a few hours a month, please let us know.

