Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Envy easily lurks in the human heart, and it is a disturbing factor in community. For example, a teacher envies the success of a fellow teacher, a pastor, the popularity of his assistant, a student, the talents of a classmate, a religious, the manifest harems of a fellow-religious. Some wonder why God seems to favor others more than themselves., when they themselves are so much more deserving. In the movie "The Song of Bernadette" by Franz Werfel (both the book and the movie) this is well shown in the case of the novice mistress, who could not see how that poor, uneducated girl should have such favors from the Blessed Mother instead of herself, a woman of noble birth, a woman of much prayer and penance! But the divine favor singled out Bernadette.

How well God speaks as did the owner of the vineyard to the disgruntled workers: "Can I not do with my money as I want to? Are you envious because I am generous? God dispenses his favors and his privileges as he pleases. Has anyone a right to them? He will also reward everyone according to his works (Matthew 16:27) but no one dictates to the Spirit of God how, or to whom, to distribute his gifts.

In the family of God, the attribute that builds up is the sincere appreciation of each other's gifts and joyous praise of God for his goodness and his wonderful works. "There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord: there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (I Corinthians 12:4-7) Thus we have nothing to boast about and nothing to be envious about, for whatever is good in a man or a woman stems from the Spirit of Love within him.

Moreover, in the Body of Christ, whatever good accrues to each member will be eternally enjoyed by all the others. In the fellowship of the Spirit we enjoy sharing all that we have, for sharing is the characteristic of love. In the perfect happiness of heaven there is no envy, only love that shares all with all. We will endeavor to walk in the footsteps of the great Apostle Andrew who, although called by the Master before his brother Peter, and who even brought his brother to the Master, yet stepped humbly aside to see the Master choose his brother Peter as the head of the little band of Twelve, the spokesman for all the rest. This is the kind of example needed today by many whose main striving seems to be for the higher places.

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.	**September 22**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**September 23**	**N/A**
Tecla Fernandez †		Bernardina †
Thur.	**September 24**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**September 25**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**September 26**	**4:30PM**
Special Intentions		
Sun.	**September 27**	**9:00AM**
Eilah (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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