Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — June 28, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Francis Possenti was a young man living in a frivolous, carefree life when he received a special call to the religious life. But life was too attractive to young Possenti, and he continued on in his frivolous ways. Then he became deathly sick, and was carried out to a procession. As the image of the Sorrowful Mother was being carried past him, Francis received a deep spiritual grace, an invitation for the second time to leave all things behind and follow Christ. He entered the Passionist Order and became Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother. From that time on there was no more compromise. Today he is honored on our altars as St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother.

Our Lord does not mince his words when He says: "Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me". He demands from every one total allegiance. No one can come between Christ and ourselves, not even mother or father, son or daughter. No one can stand in the way of our allegiance to him. But who can demand our love and loyalty in preference to that of the closest family ties? Only the Lord Himself could demand such loyalty. He alone is the Son of God who became our Savior and Redeemer. If we prefer anyone to Him, we are not worthy of Him. There can be no compromise.

This loyalty must persist even though it spells suffering and hardship. Such is the "cross" Jesus speaks of in the Gospel this weekend. "He who will not take up his cross and follow in my footsteps, is not worthy of me". It is a cross in the figurative sense, but it congers up before our minds the cross of Jesus. His footsteps led to death out of love for us on Golgotha's heights. The path that Jesus has forged for us to follow is not a bed of roses. Anyone who goes by the name of Christian mut share His cross if he wishes to share His glory. There can be no compromise. Suffering is part and parcel of the Christian calling. To be unwilling to carry our share of crosses and sufferings allotted to us, makes us unworthy of our crucified Savior.

Furthermore, if we prefer to seek ourselves instead of Christ in this life, if we continually give ourselves up to the pleasures and worldly aims of this mortal life, we end in utter frustration, because nothing in this world can give the human heart real fulfillment and lasting happiness. When present at the baptism of an infant, it is a good opportunity to renew at least mentally our own baptismal commitment. That commitment was made to Christ totally and irrevocably. It involved our whole being. If we endeavor to live that commitment, He will not complain that we are lukewarm, are giving Him half measures or are a man or a woman of compromise. We will be totally committed.

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.	**June 30**	**N/A**
Gerardo Bernardino †		Bob & Lydia
Wed.	**July 1**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**July 2**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**July 3**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**July 4**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Sun.	**July 5**	**N/A**
Fr. Ciaran Dillon †		ICF #14
Port Costa		**N/A**
Walter Ligon †		Mary & Moira

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