Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Sometimes we don't know what we want. Restlessness grips us, and we are not attentive enough to know that the Spirit of God often moves in us through a discontent with things as they are. So, we cover up a seeking of the Spirit with food, noise or some other form of adult pacifier.

The word of God this weekend plays no such games, and will not allow us to play them. It aims right to the target: life, the deepest yearnings of the human heart. For St. Paul, any mention of real “life” is synonymous with his encounter with the real Christ. Somehow in St. Paul's experience, this relationship became the core of what he lived for. This Christ Jesus was the risen one, the Word made flesh, the Word lived out in love.

But we are not St. Paul, we say. Life means other things for us. There are physical things, psychological things, even spiritual things we must attend to. In the face of our objections, St. Paul's words may seem like some obsession, granted a magnificent one.

The gospel reading this weekend speaks of the owner of a vineyard approaching people and making an agreement with them. These people are presented as standing around waiting, for they know not what. At the approach of the owner, they are found and freely enter into a working agreement with him that satisfies them and satisfies him. This working agreement happens earlier for some and later for others. It turns out in the story that some are envious because the owner is generous to the latecomers, giving them as much as the early workers agreed to work for.

The parable remains a puzzle for us if we conclude that what is given the workers is Something. The parable takes on a new significance if the payment becomes Someone. What if all the workers are rewarded with that portion exceedingly great? It all begins with being found, called needed. The parable is constructed on relational terms. Perhaps it uncovers for us what we all indeed really want: to belong to Someone. Any other payment pales in comparison. Are we still standing around, or do we already belong to Someone? Is Christ really in charge of our affairs?

After mass, we will leave the assembly and go on doing the things we must do for a living. Sometimes these occupations are filled with meaning; at other times we are sick unto death of them. What matters is the Someone in whom we live and move and have our being. What matters is that primary relationship which manifest itself in a life lived out in the truth of authenticity. What matters is life lived out in its deepest sense, human beings as human words for the Word made flesh. There is no room for rash judgment about fellow workers. We simply don't have all the facts about them. There is no room for idlers either, because the charity of Christ presses us in this estate of affairs. Still standing around? Choose life, to the hilt. He has agreed to pay in full.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 26**	**11:00AM**
Raymond Arcega		Alma & Jong
Wed.	**September 27**	**11:00AM**
Eilah Jordin (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Thur.	**September 28**	**11:00AM**
Jorgelia Quiapo †		Lacsina Family
Fri.	**September 29**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**September 30**	**4:30PM**
Bob Banaga †		Bill & Diane
Sun.	**October 1**	**9:00AM**
Jong (Thanksgiving)		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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Sunday Collection – September 17th

St. Rose, Crockett	$2475
St. Patrick Mission	$250

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Virtus Training

It may seem as though we just switched to the Virtus training, but it has actually been 4 years! With that, all our volunteers will need to log on to the program and do a review session to keep us up to date. If you have done your training in the last two years you are good. Please log onto virtusonline.org to sign in. If you have done this in the past you will be getting a reminder email soon. If you are a new user, please start a new account. The website is https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus.

I know in the past many have expressed their feelings that this training does not pertain to them because they do not come into contact with any youth, but the program is not just for that. Virtus will help you learn how to see signs of abuse, how to help those who have been abused in the past and how to avoid creating an environment where abuse can happen. Taking these classes can help **ALL THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE AND SOCIETY!** It goes far beyond just our little parish and children.

If you are unsure of doing this at home, or don’t have access to the internet, we are happy to have you come to the office and take the class on the computer here with help.

NO MATTER WHAT POSTION YOU SERVE IN OUR PARISH, YOU NEED TO DO THIS TRAINING!

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.
VIRTUS® Online

Coffee and Canvas

SATURDAY, October 14TH AT 10:00AM!!

Join us for a fun relaxing morning of carefree painting and coffee! Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch while you get the chance to paint a simple canvas, guided by a wonderful instructor from our parish. And of course, there will be coffee!! All of this for $30, plus your painting to take home as a memento. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome!

Sign-ups in the vestibule.

Second Collection

Next weekend our second collection is for our CCD program. Many of our parishioners already receive the green envelopes (CCD) in their envelope packets in the mail, which are turned in whenever families are able to contribute. We currently have 12 Confirmation candidates in class this year, and are expecting a few more! We also have three students preparing for their First Reconciliation and Frist Communion. If you are already in the habit of donating toward these areas on your own schedule, please feel free to continue to do so, otherwise please consider a contribution next week!

All Souls Mass

We will be celebrating our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 4th at 10:00AM. If you want the names of your departed to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, please submit them ($10 donation per name) by Wednesday November 1st (All Saint’s Day)! We invite all that attend for some light refreshments after the mass. If you are able to donate some store-bought sweets, please let the office know, 510-787-2052.