Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 9, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Children and grown-ups enjoy swimming at the beach especially during hot summer months, quite unmindful of any dangers that my lie in the waters. There is an ever-present awareness of the life -guard stationed at his or her place, in whom they put trust. They know he or she is ready to help them in any need, and it is this presence of the life-guard that lends a sense of security to even the youngest among them.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus commanded the disciples to get into the boat and row back to the other side of Lake Gennesaret. He had gone up the mountain to pray by Himself, leaving them alone. They had obeyed, although they were reluctant to go without His presence among them. Yet they only thought He was leaving them alone. In reality, He was very much with them, His chosen ones, since He had great plans for them. It was for their best that He withdrew His visible presence for a while. They had to learn to trust Him even when He seemed to go away and leave them by themselves. They had to experience the need of him, and of His all-assuring presence.

We do not always sense the presence of the Lord in our lives, especially when He seems to leave us to our own resources. But He is always with us, for that is what He promised. When God seems far away, He is right in our midst, right in the depth of our hearts, right there in the Tabernacle, waiting for us to call upon Him in our need. Then indeed we prove to Him that we have faith in Him, for faith is something spiritual and is not felt necessarily by the senses and the feelings.

The disciples obeyed the Lord and now it was already late in the night and darkness had enveloped them. There was not even any moonlight, for the sky was over cast and a strong wind was blowing. The sea showed signs of getting rough and it was against their better judgment to have risked this crossing under such circumstances. But Jesus had bidden them to do so and so they kept on. For a long time they rowed, all efforts being put forth to reach the goal of the other shore. But the rowing became increasingly difficult, and with strong head-winds they hardly made any progress. They were strong fishermen, used to rowing, but in these conditions they could do next to nothing, that is by themselves alone. If ever they felt the need of Jesus it was now.

It is the same when the trials of life engulf us and we seem to make no headway at all in solving our many problems, that we need to turn with all the more trust and confidence to our Savior. Now is the time for earnest prayer that the all-powerful Lord come to our aid. Now is the time to prove our faith with which we are blessed as Christians. Life is often full of dark days, and stormy nights. Faith is the bulwark that has kept the saints serene even in the greatest trials of life, for they professed continually their faith in His name: "I am He! Take courage."

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.	**August 4**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**August 5**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**August 6**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 7**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 8**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Sun.	**August 9**	**N/A**
Clarissa O. Mariano (birthday/thanksgiving)		Mariano Family
Port Costa		**N/A**
Mahoney Family		Alice Marshall

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