



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Entering a funeral parlor sometimes we can't help but be amused that many people, especially the more affluent families, have many costly floral bouquets in and around the room where the deceased is laid out. Granted that a floral bouquet or wreath is a sign of affection or respect from the giver for the deceased, it is of itself merely an external gift and it cannot help the deceased in any way.



The deceased persons themselves would rather beg for prayers if they could; that masses be offered for them, instead of an abundant display of floral contributions. These are gifts of the spirit.

Jesus reprimands the Pharisees in this weekend's gospel because they multiplied external laws and regulations in their worship of God without insisting on the interior dispositions of the heart with which God wants to be worshiped. Exterior acts without faith and love amounts to nothing. God always sees the heart. That is why the widow's mite (Luke 21:4) was so pleasing to him. Her gift was relatively very tiny compared to the generous offerings of the rich, but with that small mite she gave all she had and with it her whole being to God, a perfect act of worship. Similarly, what counts in our worship of God is not the amount of our decorations, nor the grandiose effect of choirs or orchestras, but the inner dispositions of each participant in the act of worship. The command to love God with the whole heart demands the worship from humankind's inner being, from the heart.

One could draw a parallel with our Liturgy before it underwent a reform after Vatican II. Just as the Pharisees had added many regulations to the worship of God in the course of centuries, so too the liturgy of the mass had added and duplicated many prayers, gestures, actions, vestments, much of which cluttered up the main thrust of the liturgical action. The word of God had almost taken a back seat, while long choral renditions of "Lord Have Mercy" and "Gloria" unduly lengthened the introductory part. But the decree on the liturgy laid the way for simplification and restoration of original purity. Now one moves rapidly in the introductory part and far more emphasis is placed on the proclamation of the word of God. This then leads to the climax of the celebration in the liturgy of the Eucharist. Strange to say, many found fault with the

changes. They said the mass was not the same and some even left the Church! In reality the mass remained a memorial sacrificial meal of Christ's Body and Blood. Only the externals had been modified. But some could not distinguish externals from the internal essence of the sacrifice in the Eucharist.

Our Lord himself always give a supreme example of serving the Father in simplicity and joy of heart with great intensity of love.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with columns for Day, Date, and Time, listing intentions for Tuesday through Sunday, including names like Elyse, Janice, Christina Quiapo, Regina Villanueva, and Port Costa.



Sunday Collection - August 22

Table with 2 columns: Location (St. Rose, Crockett; St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa) and Amount (\$1330; \$165).

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation program will begin the first Sunday in October; REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 30TH!

CCD: and preparation for First Holy Communion every Sunday after 9:00AM Mass.

CONFIRMATION: Registration is now open. Classes will be every Sunday after 9:00AM, taught by Ms. Jensen.

R.C.I.A. for adults wanting to become Catholics, or complete their sacraments. Please contact Father Leo.

For more information, please contact the office, 510-787-2052.

Current Mass Protocol

Our Churches no longer have government-restrictions on capacity, but many of the practices we have come to see as normal are changing again due to the increase in COVID cases. With this in mind we must remember that we still need to do our part to keep everyone safe.

- List of 5 bullet points regarding COVID-19 safety protocols: masks indoors, social distancing, use of worship aids, and physical contact.

Contra Costa County and the Oakland Diocese now require masking indoors for everyone as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19.

St. Rose of Lima

Saint Rose of Lima (in Spanish, Santa Rosa de Lima) is the patron saint of Peru, all South America and the Philippines. She was the first person born in the Western Hemisphere to be made a saint (canonized) by the Roman Catholic Church.

Isabel de Flores was born into a wealthy family on April 20, 1586, in Lima, Peru. Rosa (the name by which she was always known) showed an early interest in penitential practice and a spiritual life, taking the 14th-century Dominican nun Saint Catherine of Siena as her model. Rosa worked hard during the day and spent her nights in prayer and penance. She was generally obedient, but her refusal to marry created tension between Rosa and her mother that lasted 10 years, during which time Rosa made a perpetual vow of virginity.

In 1606 her mother relented and allowed Rosa to become a Dominican nun of the Third Order. Her practice became more austere. She secluded herself, engaged in prolonged fasts, began wearing a crown of thorns, and slept on a bed of broken glass and pottery fragments. She experienced numerous visions, particularly of the devil. Only in the last three years of her life did she leave her seclusion. Many miracles were said to have occurred after her death on August 24, 1617, in Lima.

She was beatified in 1668 by Pope Clement IX and was declared patron of Lima; she was canonized by Pope Clement X, who proclaimed her patron saint of South America, the Indies, and the Philippines. Saint Rose of Lima's feast day is on August 23 (formerly August 30).

(“Saint Rose of Lima.” Britannica Kids, https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/Saint-Rose-of-Lima/334961. Accessed 24 August 2021.)

