Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 10, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Any organization or community that would develop well its potential must have genuine leaders who are not out for their personal advancement, but for the good of the organization or the community. In aiming at a definite goal, a leader will meet with obstacles and even opposition, if the ideals he or she sets forth jar with the lower standards of those less concerned about the good of the organization than with their own personal interests. Opposition is no sign of poor leadership. It may evidence just the contrary.

By the witness of his gospel message and his powerful deeds, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God to be at hand. He himself is the great Prophet of God, God's mouthpiece, the very Word of God Incarnate, clearly manifesting to his brothers in the flesh what the will of the Father is for them. The fact that he boldly proclaims what is right in God's eyes, and what the Father in heaven wants his children to do brings upon him mounting opposition; and the opposition breaks out into open hostility until he is "lifted up" on the Cross betrayed by one of the Twelve, rejected by his own People, and handed over to the pagans. Yet, he did proclaim that "I once, I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (John 12:32)

Christ continues to fulfill his prophetic office in the Church today. He does not only through the hierarchy, but also through the laity. They also have been called to be his witnesses. Both the understanding of the faith and the grace of speech have been given to them. Endowed with these gifts, the power of the Good News is to shine forth in their lives, and the virtues of the gospel message blossom fully, shining like the Christ-life itself in the midst of men. (Vatican II, The Church, 35). Continuing the prophetic role of Christ, the Christian spreads the faith by word and deed. He or she is not primarily concerned with the revealing the unknown future, and if this is occasionally resorted to, it is always in relation to conversion and renewal in the Christian commitment. His or her main task is to admonish, reprimand, instruct and console, always exhorting God's People to carry out the mind of Christ in his commandment of universal love.

The Christian exercises his or her prophetic role chiefly by his or her example of a good Christian life, his or her fidelity to Christian principles, and willingness to stand up for them in the face of opposition. He or she likewise deepens his or her knowledge continually of what God has revealed to be his will in the Scripture, especially the Gospels, and he or she willingly hearkens to the voice of Christ resounding in the words of those whom Christ has placed over his flock to guide them. This knowledge will enable him or her to the aid of others who are groping for the truth, and to defend the stand of the Church when it is attacked. He or she is not afraid to speak up boldly, even though, that may merit him or her to be "lifted up with his or her Lord" and to suffer derision and opprobrium.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 12**	**11:00AM**
Juan Crostbal†		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Wed.	**March 13**	**11:00AM**
Carlo Lacsina (birthday)		Lacsina Family
Thur.	**March 14**	**11:00AM**
Robert Y Bañaga Sr. †		Lydia & Family
Fri.	**March 15**	**11:00AM**
Karen Mary & Ruth Colleen Cartwright †		Family
Sat.	**March 16**	**4:30PM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sun.	**March 17**	**9AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Mahoney Family		

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