From the Desk of Fr. Leo

An army chaplain in World War II was approached one Sunday and asked: "Father, I am a Protestant, I notice that our services have some participants, but yours are always crowded. So many of the men come to your Sunday services. We have the readings of the Bible. We sing and pray. What do you have besides that?" The chaplain answered: "Son, we too have the Bible readings, and we sing and pray. But we have something more; we have the Eucharist. And the Eucharist is Christ in His very special presence. Christ is on the altar, and every Catholic soldier knows it. There is no other reason for the crowds.

They were very downhearted, these two disciples on the way to Emmaus. It was as if the light had gone out with the death of Jesus and they were in darkness and doubt. Then He met them, He walked with them, He addressed and questioned them, and He began to instruct them. As they listen to His words, it was as if a mist were lifted from their eyes. Now they were alive once more, hope springing up in their hearts. Now they were full of interest, asking Him questions, for His words set them on fire: "Were not our hearts burning inside us as He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us."

The Word of God in the Scripture is a living word, a vibrant chord, a source of strength. Christ lives in His word. He, the Risen Lord, is the source of all life by the gift of His Spirit. The Spirit inspired the writing of the Sacred Books, to impart courage and life to humankind. Many a man was converted by a single passage of the Gospels or Epistles, as was St. Augustine who was converted from a sinful life and led on to a new life in Christ. The two disciples in this weekend's reading were enkindled with new fire, their hearts shook off all darkness and doubt. Even then, this encounter did not reveal Jesus to them as yet. Only when they had invited Him to eat with them and He broke bread with them, sharing the Eucharist with them, were their eyes opened, and they recognized Jesus for what He really was; the Risen Lord, the Messiah King of Israel. But then He disappeared at once. For our eyes are not to enjoy the vision of the Risen Lord until the day of glory and reward. Now He must be accepted on faith. He is in our mist always, but He is hidden from sight, while faith alone discloses Him to us.

It often happens that reading the Scriptures or receiving and celebrating the sacraments leaves us without noticeable effect. Our feelings are rather cold. But the encounter with Christ need not be one of the senses. It is the spirit, and the spiritual effects will always be a deepening of the Christ-life within us in faith, hope and love. We enjoy a greater peace of heart, a security of purpose, a determination to forge ahead always onward and upward. Indeed, the encounter has not been in vain.

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.	April 28	N/A
Eolando Uy †		Bernas Family
Wed.	April 29	N/A
Special Intentions		
Thur.	April 30	N/A
Special Intentions		
<u>Fri.</u>	May 1	N/A
Concepcion K. De Vera †		Mariano Family
<u>Sat.</u>	May 2	N/A
David Bottta †		Bill & Diane
Sun.	May 3	Thomas N/A
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		N/A
Walter Ligon †		Mary & Moira

Sunday Collection - April 19

St. Rose, Crockett	\$835
Easter	\$530
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$35
Easter	\$20

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND A WAY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR PARISH!

<u>Online Donations</u>

The Diocese of Oakland is trying to help those parishes and parishioner where online giving is not in place. To do this, they have set up a way for people to donate online through the Diocese to their own parish.

ALL DONATIONS THROUGH THIS LINK GO DIRECTLY TO THE PARISH THAT IS SELECTED.

There are a couple of ways this can be accessed.

1) Put this link directly into your internet browser:

https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support

2) Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page

Click on the Giving tab

Select the Parish Support option

This link will take you directly to the giving page. Once there, you will enter your gift information, parish affiliation, name, address, and payment preference. Once you submit, you will get a short reply confirming that the transaction was successful. A few minutes later, a message will land in your email account with a summary of the gift, including the parish it will be directed towards, and a simple thank you. The Diocese will process the gifts, which entails charging the credit or debit cards and running the bank account debits.

NOTE: Your accounts may not be charged immediately, but when the gift is processed by OMA staff.



Things are certainly very different this year, but in spite of this, and even more so, we would still like to recognize those who have done so much for us. Although we may not be able to celebrate Mother's Day and our Novena together, Father will still be remembering all those mothers and mother figures during these masses, whether private or public. If you have someone special that you would like remembered at these masses just send a request in the mail, drop it mailbox, send in our an email (strosecrockett@comcast.net) or even give us a call, 510-787-2052.



With the constant change that is occurring around us, the Diocese is still adhering to the following protocols:

- All social gatherings that can be rescheduled, postponed or cancelled, should be.
- All public Masses are suspended.
- ALL CHURCHES WILL REMAIN CLOSED!

We all have many questions in regard to what is going on around us, and we will keep you as up to date as possible. This is a very fluid situation, and no one has all the answers. Please just remember to take a breath, and don't make decisions in panic or haste! Due to the current stricter conditions in Contra Costa

County, as of April 1st the Diocese has asked that all churches remain closed, even for individual prayer. Due to this we will **NOT BE OPENNING THE CHURCH** until further notice.

We know that is seems as though the parish is constantly asking for money, and this is very frustrating. Our parish family has risen to challenge every time, and we are forever in debt to that. Unfortunately, this Coronavirus epidemic is hitting us in an already bad time. If your family is able to continue to send their Sunday tithe to the parish office it may help us keep our heads above water for the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to offer.