Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph — December 31, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In his inaugural address, the late Pope John Paul I stated: “The danger of modern man is that he would reduce earth to a desert, the person to an automaton, and brotherly love to planned collectivization. The Church, admiring such so-called achievements, intends rather to safeguard the world that thirsts for a life of love from dangers that would attack it.”

One of the greatest dangers for the happiness of humankind today is the breakdown of family life. The Creator himself intended family life as the solid foundation of humanity, and instituted marriage as something sacred and permanent. Today, free love is rapidly replacing marriage, divorce is being advocated even where that growing cancer had long been resisted, trial marriages and teenage hasty unions frequently end up in frustration. Young people live together as they please, and separate when they please. Broken homes are more frequent each succeeding year.

Against this dark picture of neo-paganism stands the bright light of the Holy Family. What a breath of pure and fresh air we experience as we gaze upon Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their simple but holy life at Nazareth. Theirs was that life of love which the world thirsts for. Nothing sensational happened in their midst year after year. They were not out for the novel or the spectacular. There was not the rush-rush of our big cities. There were none of the modern means of transportation, convenience or entertainment. Yet peace, deep peace reigned in their household, the peace of God and the love of the Spirit, which bond them together in closest union, affording them true happiness. This is the model for every Christian family.

It is not the things of earth that makes humankind happy; neither money nor power nor possessions can really satisfy the human heart. Happiness is found in interpersonal relations and ultimately in our relation with God. Jesus was happy in the companionship of Mary and Joseph in whose presence he was totally at ease, for they mirrored forth so perfectly the ideal of marriage that God intended from the beginning. He was happy to lead the hidden life of work as the carpenter's son and earn a living from the labor of his hands. An old Welsh ballad had three troubadours coming across a man and a youth making wooden yokes to be drawn by oxen. Said the first: That boy is God's Son, Said the second: No! It can't be! Said the third: Would God's Son make yokes for oxen all day? How well the ballad shows that at Nazareth there is a mystery, the mystery of Christ, who though he was by nature God, emptied himself and took the nature of a slave.

Let every family realize that their happiness does not consist in their earthly possessions of goods, houses, cars and other facilities, but in the interpersonal relation of each member of the family with the others. Deepest happiness is found in simplicity of life, where daily work and prayer bind the members of the family close together, and Christ reigns over the household. Then the Spirit of peace and love heals all wounds, strengthens all ties, and supports all sufferings and trial. The world will only find peace and happiness if it returns the simple joys of family life, modeled on that of the Holy Family, whom God has given as a blueprint for the Christian home.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Sunday Collection – December 24th

St. Rose, Crockett	$2371
Christmas	$3650
St. Patrick Mission	$331
Christmas	$370

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon. January 1 9:00AM
People of the Parish

Tues. January 2 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Wed. January 3 11:00AM
Thanksgiving — Ed & Mae

Thur. January 4 11:00AM
Virgilio Junio † — Buenaflor- Roth Family

Fri. January 5 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Sat. January 6 4:30PM
Saturday Choir — Parishioners

Sun. January 7 9AM
Ed & Mae Combong (anniversary)

Port Costa 11:00AM
People of the Parish

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