Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 21, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When typhoons, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes or fires hit various sections of a country, there is little or no thought that perhaps God is sending these reminders to awaken in us an awareness of his all-holy will, so disregarded by many today. Moreover, it is pleasant to sit in the comfort of a home and watch on a TV the light and misery of those affected, and then let the government do something about it. But the question for every Christian ought to be: What would Christ have done in our place?

When Jesus called his first four disciples, they responded promptly and generously but they had as yet no clear idea of what that call entailed. Their mentality was quite narrow, and their hopes rather bound up with a temporal kingdom. Only gradually did a change of heart, a true "metanoia", take place within them, so that as true followers of Christ, their interests widened to embrace even the pagans, and their hopes revolved around the spiritual promises of Christ. They took on their Master's outlook and aims and became his true followers.

Christ has unfurled his banner for us to follow him into an adventure that will challenge the best in anyone. He is not out to conquer lands and acquire wealth, but to conquer humankind for the kingdom of the Father, so that God may reign fully over all hearts in love and lasting peace.

Many call themselves Christians today, who have only a very elementary knowledge of what it means to follow Christ. For some it is fashionable to be a Christian, just as it was for the large crowd who followed him in Galilee, but who deserted him once he made known to them his real demands. Others like Judas hope to profit materially by being his disciple, or wish to obtain merely material and temporal benefits, but betray his interests when they go counter to their own. Still others are faithful followers in time of success but flee away as soon as the cross looms in their lives.

The true following of Christ includes: (1) proper attitudes, which involves a change of mind and heart (metanoia) if they do not reflect the mind of Christ. (2) An on-going process of learning what Jesus taught (the gospel message) so as to be able to carry it out. (3) The services of others in love which is the epitome of following Christ. Only then can we consider ourselves truly Christians.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**January 23**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**January 24**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**January 25**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**January 26**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**January 27**	**4:30PM**
Teddy & Stevie Gallo†		Family
Sun.	**January 28**	**9AM**
Arturo & Lyndon		Arthur Balagot
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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