

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Imagine yourself alone in death valley. It is summer. The sun keeps pressing its heat relentlessly through your skin to the muscles, organs, and bones of your body; and the dry winds keep taking your breath away. All about you, you notice bones, bones parched by the sun and wind, the bones of those who have succumbed to the dryness and death of the desert. You are bewildered, almost delirious, as you grow faint. You are alone, weary and hot, hungry and thirsty. Finally exhausted, you begin to dream of restful shade and cool breezes across your hot forehead. And you know, know surely, that your very life depends upon the soft winds of companionship and the cool refreshment of food and drink. You know that you need help.

The prophet Ezekiel knew it, knew it long before the coming of Jesus. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.E., he imagined Israel in its captivity and exile as dry bones strewn in a desert. And he dreamt of a time when a cool breeze, the refreshing breath of God, the Spirit of God, would breathe life into the bones. Even graves would be opened, and the people would be restored. Israel would,live again, at peace, in their own land. After all, God had promised help, and God's promises are sure.

The apostle St. Paul knew that we need help. He knew it because of Israel. And he knew it because of Jesus. For St. Paul, the choice is between the dry desert of the flesh and the refreshing oasis of the Spirit. Life in the Spirit is life with others, life where we are helped, life where we gladly share food and drink. The ultimate choice, the choice between life and death, is the choice between the death of separation and abandonment and the life of fellowship.

And Lazarus knew it. The story of Lazarus, as the gospel of St. John tells it, is detailed and vivid. It is a story of illness and death, of burial and resurrection. Told as a sign of Jesus' power, it includes the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept." And in it we know the compassion of Jesus. Yet at its heart is the message that Jesus, like Moses is engaged in God's work of helping. And the goal, if you move on to the rest of the story is the meal which Jesus shares with Mary and Martha and Lazarus. For Jesus, as for Moses, life finds its possibility and its meaning in a feast. We are helped by, and towards a table. God helps, yes. And we help too! Our efforts are a part of God's plan. They always are. Mercifully, history is filled with the stories of those whose efforts have helped. Moses, Ezekiel, Jesus, Mary, Martha, and countless generations of the faithful, both men and women. And now, God wants our help.

Now, especially, just now, during this season of Lent, when many, old and young are coming from death of the desert to the new life in Christ, God welcomes our help. For many whose lives we may touch, what we do may be a matter of life and death, death and life. Life together in Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

<u>Mass Intentions for the Week</u>

Tues.	March 28	11:00AM
Arline Ramos		Pena Kids
Wed.	March 29	11:00AM
Tony Jacob †	101ul Cli 27	Bob† & Lydia
Thur.	March 30	11:00AM
Modesto Del Rosario		Lily Militar
(birthday)		
<u>Fri.</u>	March 31	<u>11:00AM</u>
Bill Valli †		John Collins
Sat.	April 1	4:30PM
Joseph Noe †		Family
<u>Sun.</u>	April 2	9:00AM
Jorge, Tomasa & Jose	Ť	Family
& Manuel†		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

<u>Prayers for the Deceased</u>

Please remember in a special way, Robert (Bob) Bañaga and his family. Visitation for Bob will be at St. Rose on Monday, March 27th, 10-1, and funeral mass will be the same day at 1:00PM.

Sunday Collection - March 19th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1555
Bishop's Overseas Appeal	\$83
St. Patrick Mission	\$216
Bishops Overseas Appeal	\$15

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



Second Collection for Easter Flowers

Church environment is vital for a conducive worship

space. There will be a second collection this weekend for Easter decorations and flowers. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

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Holy Week	Palm Branch	411	MULL.
Holy Thursday	Forty Days	1	
Good Friday	Jesus	1	
Holy Saturday	Passover	1	4
Easter	Foot Washing		
Palm Sunday	Resurrection		
Purple	Love	A ST	ARC I
	Holy Thursday Good Friday Holy Saturday Easter Palm Sunday	Holy ThursdayForty DaysGood FridayJesusHoly SaturdayPassoverEasterFoot WashingPalm SundayResurrection	Holy Thursday Forty Days Good Friday Jesus Holy Saturday Passover Easter Foot Washing Palm Sunday Resurrection

<u>Garage Sale</u>

This year, as part of our fundraising efforts, the Confirmation candidates are going to help us participate in Crockett's Townwide Yard Sale in May. Beginning this month, we will be accepting donations

of gently used items every other Sunday, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30, from $10:15-11:45_{AM}$ at the CCD building. If you cannot make those hours, please call the office 510-787-2052.



St. Patrick Mission Celebration

As one of the oldest parishes in our Diocese we are proud to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick Mission this August! With that being said, we need your help. The parish is starting to put together a committee to help plan the festivities, so if you would like to be involved, or know someone that would be, please let us know. Also, we are starting to look for any pictures, memorabilia, etc. to help give a whole picture of our beloved little church, so please spread the word. All items would stay with their owners, we would just like to scan copies of images and even jot down old stories of activities, priests and anything from the past!