



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Father Emil Kapaun is considered an outstanding hero of the Korean Conflict. He was among the prisoners, all American officers at a Communist prison camp in North Korea. He had won the heart of every P.O.W. and the rage of his captors by his Christ-like devotion to the physical and spiritual good of all his comrades, no matter what their religion, race or nationality. "All man-all priest" was how they described him. With threats and actual punishment, the Communists hindered his every effort to conduct services, but he always managed.

On Easter of 1951, the heroic chaplain planned a sunrise service. It was a cold, raw day with the wind howling from Manchuria over the Yalu River. About 85 prisoners gathered on the steps of a bombed- out church. Catholic, Protestant, Jew were there, plus some who had no religion at all, but were starting to find one. Father had no facilities for offering Mass, but he did recite the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. He read some of the Mass prayers and a few passages from the Bible, especially the story of the Resurrection. Very few eyes were dry when it was over. Here was hope. Here was new courage. Here was new meaning to their almost unbearable life.

Why did Chaplain Kapaun and his companions risk inhuman punishment from their godless captors by holding an Easter service? Because they really believe that Jesus rose from the grave, because they hoped that Christ would deliver them from the living grave of that horrible camp, because they believed that death itself would be overcome by Him who promised: "He who lives and believes in me shall never die."

This was not mere wishful thinking on the part of those prisoners of war, nor on our part. We are certain, we are positive that Christ rose from the grave and that we will rise from the grave.

You have heard the statement: "The only certain things in life are death and taxes." That is not true. Yes, death is certain, but taxes are into. Some people avoid taxes. More important, just as death is certain, so it is certain that each one of us will rise from the grave, on the word of those who saw Him, talked with Him, even ate with Him after He rose. Yes, there are two certain facts - death and resurrection, resurrection to a neverending life which Christ promises to all who follow Him.

That is the whole reason for our happiness today. That is the reason we celebrate with flowers, bright colors, and stirring music. That is what we mean when we wish Happy Easter to one another. Faith makes us certain.

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 14	N/A
Meriam L. Escala †	_	Mariano Family
(birthday) Wed.	April 15	N/A
Living Memorial		
Thur.	April 16	N/A
John Collins		Bob & Lydia
Fri.	April 17	N/A
Evangelina Montoya † (birthday)		Sylvia
Sat.	April 18	N/A
Clare & Dave Alvarado	†	Trudi
Sun.	April 19	N/A
Napoleon Viduya †		Jenny
Port Costa		N/A
People of the Parish		
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Sunday Collection - April 5

St. Rose, Crockett

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$ N/A

\$ N/A

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

Online Donations

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.

To my Beloved Parish Family,

I am sure, for most of you, if you write a journal, one of the things you will mention is your experience of dealing with the pandemic on the Corona virus (COVID 19). Indeed, it had impacted the normal flow of our lives. Books which will be printed in the future will surely include this as one of the highlights and to us especially, the Christians, it will really be unforgettable because, we were deprived of observing another important aspect of our faith, the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil) together as one parish family. But the choice is not ours, it is inevitable. Sad, it may be, yet there is always light at the end of the tunnel. God never abandoned his people.

Since Palm Sunday I had been celebrating mass at the Prayer Room inside the Rectory alone. I could have streamlined it via Facebook like other parishes in the Diocese, but I was not very knowledgeable on how to do it and I was hesitant to ask help from anyone because I fear for their health and safety. However, you are all in my prayers. We are one family. In my reflection, dealing with this crisis is like joining our Lord and Savior receiving a crown (Corona) of thorns before his suffering, crucifixion and death. But on Easter, that crown of thorns was replaced with a glorious crown of triumph and victory. He came back to life. I am sure we too will share that crown of triumph of our Lord after we had experienced being crowned with difficulty and challenges made by this disease. As the saying goes "From the ashes, the phoenix will rise."

I know because of this, many of us have to make some adjustments, especially financially. I fully understand that. In view of this I wish to express my sincerest thanks to those who continuously send their weekly offering and to those who out of the generosity of their hearts gave donations even though we did not have masses because of the lockdown. To those who can't, don't feel bad. These are tough times. Think first of your needs and the needs of your family. I am sure we will be able to recover. I hope we will be together soon, but till that happens, as I said, you are in my mind and prayers everyday as I celebrate the Eucharist. Let us continue to pray for one another. Have a Blessed Easter!



In Christ,
—Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion