

June 21, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Many years ago, a young rebel living in the mountains in Luzon in the Philippines once said something that every Catholic might blush at: "The day you Catholics put into practice the social teachings contained in the papal encyclicals, Communism will die a quiet death." "But", he added ruefully, "that day will never come."

For ten years Fr. Walter Hogan had labored at the Manila waterfront for the betterment of social justice among the poor. He ate, worked and slept on the dock for months, to make sure that no further atrocities would be perpetrated. At first the business men welcomed him. They thought he would teach the workers respect for their bosses. But when he started to teach the workers the way how to organize unions for justice, the bosses came alive like wounded bulls. He was threatened with deportation. But he succeeded in building up an honest union of thousands of workers.

There are over half a billion Catholics in the world today. How many give a positive witness to Christ and His Gospel-message by their words and actions? It is like lighting a candle. One little candle might not give much light, but from that one little candle many others can be lit. The light that shines forth from the one who really bears witness to Christ is the Light that is Christ Himself. Let that half a billion Catholics light their candle today, and it would soon light up the whole world.

During the lifetime of Jesus, He often had to reveal the stark truth of Christian realities behind closed doors to an intimate circle of disciples, because the majority of the people were not prepared to accept it. But once the fact of His resurrection became known and accepted and borne witness to by many honest people, and Christ was accepted as Messiah and Lord, the Christian message began to spread like wildfire and to enlighten the whole then-known world. That Good News gave meaning to the Jew burdened hopelessly under the Law and Pharisaic additions. It gave courage to the pagan, deep in the labyrinths of superstition and sin. It gave hope to young and old alike for it opened up entirely new horizons for humankind with glorious destiny for each individual who accepted it.

But today, a great cloud of darkness threatens to snuff out the Light. Everywhere there are forces at work to undermine the Christian faith and morals. It is necessary that everyone bear witness to Christ with renewed zeal. The Church is missionary in her very essence, and each member of the Church has the potential to make Christ the Light shine around Him.

The early Christians preferred martyrdom to giving up their faith. Our martyrdom today may consist rather in living up to our Catholic ideal, and deviating neither to the right nor to the left, living the Catholic life to which we committed ourselves in baptism, and which we proudly profess as adults.

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.	June 23	N/A
Father's Day Novena		
Wed. Father's Day Novena	June 24	N/A
Thur.	June 25	N/A
Father's Day Novena		
Fri.	June 26	N/A
Father's Day Novena		
Sat.	June 27	N/A
Father's Day Novena		
Sun.	June 28	N/A
Father's Day Novena		
Port Costa		N/A
Father's Day Novena		
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Sunday Collection - June 14

St. Rose, Crockett \$1830 St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$375



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



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

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, or must be conducted outdoors with no more than 100 participants.

With this information, and the Contra Costa County announcement that in church services may resume on July 1st, we are so close to welcoming back our parishioners for Mass! Although Father Leo was hoping to begin outdoor masses this weekend, the Diocese has asked each of its parishes to put together a reopening plan and submit that with a permission form for the Bishop to approve. We have already accounted for most of the guidelines, but would like to hear from our parishioners as well. So, we would like to hear from our St. Rose and St. Patrick congregations, what steps would you like to see taken before we resume masses? What would make you feel a little more at ease to attend? Please let us know! Call the office (510-787-2052), send (strosecrockett@comcast.net) or even just mention it to Father Leo or Christina. Masses at St. Rose will probably be outdoors (bring your own seat) as long as the weather permits, and we are still devising the plan for St. Patrick.



Due to the current conditions in Contra Costa County, until further notice the church will open for distribution of communion on Saturday at 4:30PM and Sunday at 9:00AM at St. Rose. St. Patrick will also open on Sunday at 11:00 AM! Please respect state and county policies by keeping a social distance of 6ft, especially when entering and exiting the church, and wearing a mask. No more than 10 people may be in the church at a time (including Father and an usher).

St. Rose and St. Patrick Mission will continue this schedule until it is considered safer to return to full Masses.

Father Leo will continue distribution of communion using the following protocol:

- 1. Wearing a mask is strictly enforced!
- 2. Eight (8) people allowed per session.
- 3. Each group will line up in the aisle usually used to process in, 6 feet apart. After receiving communion, they will exit using the aisle usually used to process out.
- 4. A ciborium is placed on a small table in front of the altar table. Before the reception, Father will lead the recitation of the Our Father, then "Behold the Lamb of God.
- 5. Individuals come up to the table one at a time, pick up a host themselves, consume it facing the altar, then put mask back and exit.
- 6. When the first batch has all exited, the next group could come in following the same procedure until everyone has received communion.
- 7. Note: upon entering drop your envelopes in the basket, since the collection bag will not be passed this time yet.
- 8. Observe distancing in entering and exiting the door. Don't crowd or come too close to others even members of your family.
- 9. Doors will open 5 minutes before Communion service. No one allowed prior for private prayers. Please cooperation is expected of everyone.