

*From the Desk of Fr. Leo*

Stubbornness is a characteristic most of us have to claim as our own. And is it not true that so often we are stubborn about things which really do not matter, or concerning which we are, far from being experts? Most of us have gotten into heated arguments about sports or the hair styles of the young, and probably our discussions about politics have at times become hot enough to start a fire in a rain-soaked forest. And it is very likely that after hours of talk we haven't budged an inch from our position, and neither has our opponent. Thousands of words exchanged with nothing accomplished.

Perhaps such "discussions" are actually a form of recreation with little harm done, but in some cases, stubbornness can be very serious. Take the matter of changes in the Mass and in the discipline of our religion. I am not talking about changes arbitrarily invented by incompetent persons, but those introduced by the highest authority in the Church. Can we honestly pretend that we are virtuous when we obstinately refuse to participate fully in the Mass as it has been revised by the Church? Of course, the opposite situation is equally wrong. A person who doggedly insists on freely improvising the prayer and ceremonies of the Mass with no regard for experts and well thought out directives of the Church, is way out of line.

When is stubbornness a virtue? St. Peter and the other apostles in the First Reading are a good example. They were every bit as stubborn but here were different. The apostles were absolutely correct and the matter was of supreme importance. They really had no choice but to refuse obedience to the Jewish authorities who had forbidden them to preach Jesus as the Messiah. St. Peter summed up the situation perfectly: "Better for us to obey God than men." For him the issue was clear—cut and he was sure of his ground. He had enjoyed a direct experience of the risen Christ, as we read in this weekend's liturgy's Gospel. He knew that Jesus is Lord. St. Peter and the other apostles were indeed stubborn, but their stubbornness was a virtue, not a foolish obstinacy.

We should be stubborn when it is a matter of conscience. Pressure from other people must not be allowed to move us from our convictions, whether it be a question of extra-marital sex or racial prejudice,

abortion or social justice. On the other hand, we cannot blithely use "conscience" as an excuse for abandoning a moral teaching of the Church which we find difficult to follow. Theologians have always taught us that conscience is the supreme norm of moral activity, but they insist that conscience must be informed. We have to work from facts, not from feelings alone. We must have a firm, solid foundation for our stand, unlike the man who said, "I have my mind made up; don't confuse me with the facts."

*Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion*

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

<b>Tues.</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Thur.</b>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>11:00PM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>11:00AM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 7</b>	<b>4:30PM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 8</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		
<b>Port Costa</b>		<b>11:00AM</b>
Mother's Day Novena		

*Sunday Collection - April 23*

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1355
St. Patrick Mission	\$130

**Thank you again to all who support our Parish**

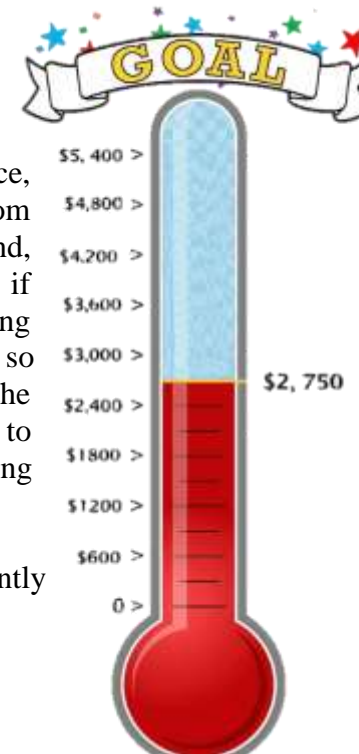
*Upcoming Projects*



Some of you may remember a couple years ago before Covid, though it feels like eons, we had the air conditioning unit for the church serviced and found that one of the air

compressors was no longer working. The Pastoral Council felt that replacement, for \$5,980 was the best choice, especially since the unit is from the late 90's. With this in mind, we are asking parishioners if they would consider donating specifically to this project so that we can hopefully reach the goal of \$6,000! We hope to have the system up and running in a couple months.

**UPDATE!:** We have currently raised \$2,750 for this repair.



*Preschool Position*

Saint Patrick School has openings for qualified preschool teachers starting ASAP as well as in the Fall. Applicants must have their 12 basic ECE units completed. This is a full-time position and benefits are included. Please contact Kelly Stevens at [kstevens@csdo.org](mailto:kstevens@csdo.org) if you are interested and would like more details.



*Mother's Day Novena*

Mother's Day cards are available in the vestibule if you would like to enroll your mother or mother figure, living or deceased in the Mother's Day Novena, starting April 29th. You may drop it in the collection basket.

*First Communion*

Congratulations to our First Communion Candidate, who received the Blessed Sacrament for the first time this weeknd!



*Coffee and Canvas*

Join us Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00AM for a fun relaxing morning of carefree painting and coffee! Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch while you get the chance to paint a simple canvas, guided by a wonderful instructor from our parish. And of course, there will be coffee!! All of this for \$30, plus your painting to take home as a memento. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome!

