

# February 26, 2023

### From the Desk of Fr. Leo

I want to suggest a project for lent: humility. Yes, humility. What a quaint word that sounds like, how old-fashioned and even a bit demeaning. Many of us have probably had it with humility. We hear the old tapes played again by parents, friends, the ministers of the church: "Don't get too big for your britches...don't be uppity...pride comes before the fall...well, mister (or miss), just who do you think you are? You really think you're somebody, don't you?" Everyone of us has heard phrases like that sometimes in our lives, and we don't like it one bit. After all, we should be somebody. We want to achieve, to make our mark on the world. We don't want to be put down; in fact, we avoid it at all costs. We want to be looked up to, to be respected, and to be liked. What's the use of humility then?

I don't care very much for the old-fashioned meaning of the word humility. But there's a trick to the word. Humility shouldn't mean a put down. It means being close to the humus, the Latin word for the earth. Humility is being down to earth. Real humility isn't



being less than yourself; it means being both no greater than yourself and no less than yourself. Real humility means being honest, being real.

This is the secret of the readings proclaimed from the scriptures this weekend. They are an important kick-off for Lent, the church's annual retreat and effort at self- examination, the church's traditional time for preparing itself to receive new members at the Easter Vigil.

Consider the gospel, St. Matthew's account of the temptations of Jesus. The tempter is saying to Jesus: "Go for it. Be the Messiah your own way. Perform impressive feats of magic and wonder. That's what's going to make people, listen to you and follow you. Then you'll really be the kind of Messiah the world wants." In other words, do it my way, bow down before me and worship me; do it the way the world would expect you do.

And how does Jesus respond? He responds to the temptations by refusing to be somebody he isn't. He responds by being humble. There's a profound lesson here for us all. The true way to be like God is not to grab at it, not try to make ourselves into little gods, but to accept the human condition. This is the root of sin: that we're willing to accept our human condition for what it is, unwilling to recognize that life is full of challenges, pain and struggle as well as joys.

My suggestion is the following: work this lent at being yourself by being humble. Know that God has made you to participate in that wonderful and sometimes scary project of being human. But take courage. God doesn't ask us to do it alone. It's through the obedience of one person Jesus, that we've all participated in reconciliation with God. So as we turn to the table where the love of that same Lord Jesus is poured out for us to be shared with one another, let us rejoice in the invitation of lent, an invitation to be ourselves, to be down to earth, to be humble.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	February 28	11:00AM
Siena Jackson		Olivia & Marvin
(surgery success)		
Wed.	March 1	11:00AM
Chris Almeida		Olivia & Marvin
(Special intentions	s)	
Thur.	March 2	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Fri.	March 3	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Sat.	March 4	4:30PM
Bill Valli †		Hoffmans
Sun.	March 5	9:00AM
Father Ciaran Dillon	÷	
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		
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### Sunday Collection - February 19th

St. Rose, Crockett \$1466

St. Patrick Mission \$225

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



#### Parish Council



Reminder, parish council meeting next Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the hall.

Friday Stations of the Cross following 11AM Mass have begun!





The Crockett Historical Society is looking for a few good volunteers! Light duty at Crockett Museum's front desk to welcome visitors, take photos of historic buildings as you walk around town, or answer research questions. Training will be provided. Bring a friend and join an organization that help keep our town history alive. Email crockettmuseum@gmail.com or call (510)787-2178.



#### ICF Dinner



Crockett, ICF Branch 14, is having their Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 18th at St Rose of Lima Hall. Price is \$25.00. Dinner includes...corned beef, cabbage, potatoes. Carrots, a roll and dessert.

To get your tickets please contact Donna Hoffmann at 510 367 5669 or email her at Dhoffm3101@aol.com.

Doors open at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30. Take outs are available.

