

October 2, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

There are many fascinating characters in the Bible, people like Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and so on through a long list. One rather obscure prophet, with the unusual name of Habakkuk, is a man I would like to have met. Perhaps I am interested in him because there have been times when I have wished for a courage like his to stand before God and complain, "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!"

In a sense, Habakkuk represents all of us during these times when everything seems to be going wrong, when perhaps we feel that God is indeed in heaven but far distant from our very real, very troubled world. Frankly, I would not dare to speak to God as Habakkuk did, with the courage to complain to God and even the audacity to suggest that God should wake up and look to his business of governing the world and directing the affairs of humankind. We are fortunate that Habakkuk spoke to God as he did, reflecting a concern that is or can be ours, because through him we have a response from God. Apparently, God was not displeased with his prophet,

since he answered him in gentle understanding tones. In effect God said: "Be patient with me. I have a plan. What I ask of you is faith, and because of your faith you will live.



The faith God asked is not the kind we ordinarily think of, a mere belief that there is a God. Obviously Habakkuk believed in God; otherwise he would not have called upon him. What God meant by faith is a loyalty and trust, a steadfastness especially in the face of difficulties. Such faith is a combination of love and confidence. Perhaps the best single word in English for this quality is "faithfulness."

It is easy to be faithful to God when everything is going well for us, just as it is easy to be loving and kind to pleasant, cooperative people. God is asking that we be faithful to him, especially during our most turbulent and frustrating moments. Like the apostles, we should turn to Jesus and pray especially during Mass. "Lord, increase our faith." The apostles, whom Jesus had sent forth to preach, were apparently overwhelmed by the demands of their apostolic work

and dismayed by the people's lack of response. At that time the apostles did not know that Jesus himself, during the hours of his passion, would be in a situation which would tax the limits of even his endurance. They could not foresee that on the cross, Jesus the man would feel abandoned by his Father and would remain nonetheless faithful as he cried out in a dying gasp: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46). And though he died, Jesus was raised to the fullness of life because of his faithfulness.

In the Mass, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are invited to thank God not only for the salvation which has come to us through the death and resurrection of his Son, but also for the example he has given.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

| Tues. | October 4 | 11:00AM |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Edna Angeles Dayao† | | Ludivina Chaves |
| | | 44.004.75 |
| Wed. | October 5 | 11:00AM |
| Andex Laygo | | Ed & Mae |
| (healing) | | |
| Thur. | October 6 | 11:00PM |
| Benjamin Peralta † | | Ed & Mae |
| | | |
| Fri. | October 7 | 11:00AM |
| Ernesto Llamas † | | Ed & Mae |
| (death anniversary |) | |
| Sat. | October 8 | 4:30PM |
| Anne & Caesar Airold | i † | Your |
| | • | Children |
| Sun. | October 9 | 9:00AM |
| Elliot Combong | | Mom & Dad |
| (| | |
| Port Costa | | 11:00AM |
| People of the Parish | | |
| † ************************************ | | |

<u>Sunday Collection - September 25th</u>

St. Rose, Crockett

\$1086

St. Patrick Mission

\$184

Thank you again to all who support our Parish



Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation program started September 18th! Registration forms are available in the office. There is still time to join!

CCD: and preparation for First Holy Communion every other Sunday at 10:15 AM (must be 7 years old).

CONFIRMATION: This is a two-year formation program. Classes will be every other Sunday at 10:15AM and one weekday a month with Father Leo.

R.C.I.A. for those wanting to become Catholics. It is a two- year formation program for adults. Weekly meeting. Please contact Father Leo.

October Mass Count

Not many may realize it, but every October the Diocese asks its parishes to count the number of participants at each weekend mass for every week. We thought it was time to make sure that all our parishioners are aware of this! So, now is a great

time to check in on those you may not have seen at Mass for a while and encourage them back, invite someone new to come along or even just try to carve

out some time in your busy schedule to make it to one of the masses yourself!

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Salesian College Preparatory
2851 Salesian Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804



Second Collection

A few weekends ago Fr. Leo talked to our parishioners

during all the Masses about some of the new needs for our parish, especially the cleaning part of maintenance.

Many of our parishioners already receive the yellow and green envelopes

(Maintenance and CCD) in their envelope packets in the mail, which are turned in whenever families are able to contribute. As part of the plan to invigorate these donations, we are going to schedule these collections as second collections every month. Next Sunday will be our first attempt at this, and will be for maintenance. Our collection in the beginning of November will then be for CCD (we are excited to report that we currently have 12 Confirmation candidates in class this year, and are expecting a few

more!). Every other month we will collect for the respective envelope. If you are already in the habit of donating toward these areas on your own schedule, please feel free to continue to do so!

