From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Before Christmas years ago, a missionary Sister, teaching young boys aged nine to eleven in Ghana, West Africa, asked them to write down three things they wanted for Christmas. As usual with young boys, they had all kinds of wishes: some wanted sport articles, others modern gadgets, a TV set, a bicycle and so forth. But one little fellow wrote as follows: "I want to love God with all my heart: I want to love my neighbor as myself; I want to live a very simple life". Greatly surprised, the Sister held the lad after class and asked him where he got these ideas. Without hesitation he replied: "O Sister, I've been thinking about this for a long time." Sister was deeply impressed. Here was Jesus Christ walking on earth again, having put his Spirit into the heart of a little Ghanaian boy. How many adult Christians have such a degree of Christ's Spirit!

When Jesus was asked by the scribe which was the greatest commandment of the law, he did something very unusual. If he had merely mentioned the great commandment (the Shema) of Deuteronomy 6:4 (as in this weekend's First Reading), the love of God in its solemn setting, it would not have been unusual. But that he added to it a rather obscure commandment from the book of Leviticus about love of neighbor and put it on an equal footing with the love of God, this was something new. In the mind of Jesus, my neighbor was not just my countrymen or women, but anyone in need be he or she kinsman or kinswoman or stranger, as is clear from the parable of the Good Samaritan. This is a two-pronged fiery arrow with which Jesus wishes to pierce the whole world and set it on fire with the highest of all virtues, that of love. All other commandments are included in this twofold commandment, even the "Ten Commandments" given by Moses. Henceforth in the community of Jesus, love alone was to motivate all actions.

All his life the Lord gave a perfect example of this twofold love. He was always open to the Father's will by serving his fellowmen and women with great love. Nothing in the gospels stands out more than his universal love which reaches out to everyone regardless of his or her stand in life. He set out to accomplish the Paschal Mystery for humankind's salvation, but it was out of sheer dedication to the Father who had so ordained it. His love led him to the heights of heroism on Golgotha, where love of God

and love of humankind combined in one great act of the divine holocaust. Of this the pierced Heart of Christ stands as an everlasting symbol and witness.

Just as a fire once started needs to be continually fed with fuel lest it die out, so the fire of love needs to feed on the fuel of constant self-giving. Selfishness will gradually quench true love. Love grows by acts: acts of love offered frequently to God, and acts of kindness and goodness or of patient forbearance in regard to others. What a different world we would live in if every Christian tried his or her best to carry out the injunction on love given by the Savior!

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	November 2	11:00AM
Valdivia Family		Lily Militar
Wed.	November 3	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Thur.	November 4	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
Fri.	November 5	11:00AM
Emmanuel F. Fernando†		Gloria
Sat.	November 6	4:30PM
People of the Paris	sh	

<u>Sun.</u>	November 7	9:00AM
Dorothy Militar		Lily Militar
(birthday)		·
Port Costa		11:00AM
Alice Marshall †		ICF #14

Sunday Collection - October 24

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1053
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$26

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Current Mass Protocol

Our Churches no longer have government-restrictions on capacity, but many of the practices we have come to see as normal are changing again due to the increase in COVID cases. With this in mind we must remember that we still need to do our part to keep everyone safe.

- All persons need to wear masks indoors; currently no one is required to wear masks outdoors.
- Social distancing is not required, though we do ask to keep others in mind as we work our way back to "normal."
- Although the Diocese has okayed the use of worship aids, such as the missalettes, it is still recommended to stick to single use items. As there is no good way to clean the missalettes and prayer cards without wearing them down St. Rose/St. Patrick will not be setting these back out just yet.
- The Sign of Peace will still be without physical contact.

Contra Costa County and the Oakland Diocese now require masking indoors for everyone as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19.

All Souls Mass

We will be able to hold our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 6th at 10:00AM. If you want the names of your departed to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful, please submit them (\$10 donation per name) by Wednesday November 3rd!

We invite all that attend for some light refreshments after the mass. If you are able to donate some store-bought sweets, please let the office know, 510-787-2052.



Mass Tímes

Father Leo will be having mass at 9:00AM on Monday, November 1st for All Saints Day.

Mass on Tuesday, November 2nd will be at the regular 11:00AM mass time.

Mission Alignment Process

As of Thursday morning, only 16 of our parishioners had filled out the online survey, and only one paper survey has been turned into the office.

Please help us participate by completing a 10–15-minute survey as soon as possible.

- Go to https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/k4xck2 The link is also posted on our website and Facebook page for easier access.
- There are also opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass and you can obtain a paper copy in the vestibule or by contacting Christina Littleton in the office at 510-787-2052.

The survey will only be available from October 14 -November 22 and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible. This information will be invaluable to Father Leo, our various ministries and you, our parishioners, as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

While I know that some of you are skeptical of this process, the results and who really benefits, I urge you to please participate. Let's show the Diocese how strong our little parishes are! Who knows what we will be able to do with the information, but if we don't participate, we will never know!

