

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Who is responsible? During the 1970's, this question was frequently asked in racism-awareness workshops and black and white encounters in colleges and universities. At some point in the process, white students would address persons of color and say: "Why are you so angry at us? Are we responsible for what our ancestors did? We are not slave owners. We aren't the ones who kept the vote away. Why blame us?" Locked in their own defensiveness, the white students could not hear the message implicit in their questions: we are not responsible. We are not responsible for racism in society today. We are innocent victims of something our parents did. Look elsewhere, not at us. We are not racist.

The people of Israel were locked in a similar defensiveness in this weekend's first reading from the prophet Ezekiel. "We are not responsible," the people claim. "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. "Parents and grandparents are to blame for the current suffering and exile. The present generation is an innocent victim. Lashing out at God, the people ask, "Why are you so angry with us? You are unjust, O God."

In response, the word of the Lord through the prophet Ezekiel comes back three-fold: as a welcome word, as a critiquing word, and as an imperative word.

As a welcome word: "I am a God of compassion. I do not blame the sins of the ancestors on the children. Each generation is shaped by the heritage of good and bad it has received. But I take no joy or satisfaction in the painful results of human wickedness."

The welcome word becomes a critiquing word. "I am a God of justice. I hold all persons accountable for their own actions. Blaming others for what they have done or failed to do is no excuse for personal irresponsibility. There is no evasion for each person's struggle to live faithfully. People are not as guiltless as they claim or imagine.

And finally, the Lord speaks an imperative word. I want life and not death. Change is possible. A new heart and a new spirit can come because one is not bound by past generations or even by one's own past sins. Repent and live.

A welcome word, a critiquing word, an imperative word. Responsible for our own faithful response to the

God who created all of humanity in the divine image. We remained silent.

Where could we find what we needed to confront the racism in our own heart and bring a change? What would enable us to repent of sin, that which separates us from brothers and sisters, separate us from ourselves, separate us from God. Who or what would help us respond to that imperative word of turn and live?

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	October 3	11:00AM
Michael Bottini		Bill & Diane
Wed.	October 4	11:00AM
Miville Cristobal		Lily Militar
Thur.	October 5	11:00AN
Lily Militar		Lydia
Fri.	October 6	11:00AM
Jorgelia B. Quiapo †		Ed & Mac
Sat.	October 7	4:30PM
Raymond & Machik	o Arcega	Jong & Alma
Sun.	October 8	9:00AM
Jorge, Tomasa & Jos	se	
& Manuel		
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		
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Sunday Collection - September 24th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1087
Mission Coop	\$753
St. Patrick Mission	\$167
Mission Coop	\$125

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Virtus Training

If you have done your training in the last two years you are good. Please log onto virtusonline.org to sign in. If you are a new user, please start a new account. The website is https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus.

I know in the past many have expressed their feelings that this training does not pertain to them because they do not come into contact with any youth, but the program is not just for that. Virtus will help you learn how to see signs of abuse, how to help those who have been abused in the past and how to avoid creating an environment where abuse can happen. Taking these classes can help **ALL THE VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE AND SOCIETY!** It goes far beyond just our little parish and children.

If you are unsure of doing this at home, or don't have access to the internet, we are happy to have you come to the office and take the class on the computer here with help. Remember the online class does not have to be taken all at once; you may do it at your own pace.

NO MATTER WHAT POSTION YOU SERVE IN OUR PARISH, YOU NEED TO DO THIS TRAINING!



Second Collection

Next weekend our second collection is for The Catholic Voice. The diocesan communication appeal supports the Catholic Voice Oakland and other communication channels. We are proud of the 60-year history of communications work in our diocese. Your support is vital as we build on that legacy and bring the Good News in familiar and new ways to our community in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Coming Soon . . .

We are happy to announce that we will be having a small celebration for La Virgen de Guadalupe on December 10th! More details to come.

I.C.F Crockett Branch #14



POLENTA & SAUSAGE DINNER October 21, 2023 at 6:00PM

St. Rose of Lima Hall

Tickets are \$25.00, and dine in and take out are both available. Dinner will include antipasto, salad, sausage, bread and dessert, and of course polenta! Wine also included for dine in. Great Raffle prizes too.... For tickets, please contact Donna Hoffman (510-367-5669 or Pat Botta (510-787-1131).

Coffee and Canvas

SATURDAY, October 14TH AT 10:00AM!!

Join us 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!

Sign-ups in the vestibule.

All Souls Mass

We will be celebrating our traditional All Souls Remembrance Mass on Saturday, November 4th 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 1st (All Saint's Day)! 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.

