### From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Many a person has one sole ambition: to make a large amount of money so as to live the rest of his or her life comfortably and bequeath to his or her children a splendid inheritance. Others make every effort to reach top government positions or in their business firms. Still others leave nothing unturned to be successful in any field. All their energy goes into that one ambition.

Our Blessed Lord had also one sole ambition: to do the will of his heavenly Father in every respect and thus win for all of humankind who would receive him as the Supreme Gift of God, the Holy Spirit of Divine Love. All his energy went in that direction. He knew only too well that the Gift of the Spirit would enable humankind to perfect his or her human personality in unsurmised dimensions, and to live his or her divine fellowship fully with splendor for an eternity. But Jesus also knew that it would cost him the privations of early childhood, the hard labor for decades at the carpenter's bench, the strenuous journey preaching the word of God and healing all manner of diseases, and finally the horrible sufferings of the Cross. Yet, he attained his ambition. He never swerved from that sole ambition of seeing the Father's will in everything that happened to him and every person who was placed over him, and he carried out the Father's plan to its minutest detail. Neither setbacks nor opposition for maltreatment nor crucifixion deterred him. He was submissive to all of it, submissive to everyone and everything. He emptied himself and became the slave, the last of all.

This weekend's Gospel spells out ambition in clear terms: To be considered first in line, to dominate the rest, to rule their minds and wills, to be held in esteem by all the rest. What a contrast this weekend's Gospel gives us: to utter submission of Jesus to the last place, and the ambition of the apostles to the first place among their equals! It is the evil pride that shows itself sooner or later in every human being. Children will fight to have the leading role in a play. Men or women are jealous if one of their equals obtains a prominent position. And there are people who at times refuse to cooperate if they are not the head of the organization. Julius Caesar preferred to be first in any small town than second in Rome. And Babylon's King, the veritable image of Satan, declared: "I will set my throne above the stars of God. I will ascend the top of

the clouds. I will be like the High" (Isaiah 14:13f). Even the chosen friends of Jesus were not free from pride and ambition.

That is why Jesus placed a child in their midst. A child humbly obeys without questioning, and is content to be last of all. A child does not hanker after position, honor, rank, protocol, but is content to be led. A child takes it for granted that others are over it to come, and, to guide and instruct. A child is dependent. This is the spirit that Jesus tries to inculcate and he gives the best example possible of such childlike attitude. "The Son of man has come not to be served but to serve and give his life in ransom for the many" (Mark 10:45).

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	September 21	11:00AM
Special Intentions Wed.	September 22	11:00AM
Living Memorial	September 22	11.00/41/1
Thur.	September 23	11:00AM
Special Intentions		
<u>Fri.</u> Special Intentions	September 24	<u>11:00AM</u>
Sat.	September 25	4:30PM
John Heuser Sr. † & John Heuse	>r Ⅲ ÷	Trudi
Sun.	September 26	9:00AM
Eilah (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Port Costa People of the Parish	1	<u>11:00AM</u>

### Sunday Collection - September 12

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1671
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$485

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.

# <u>Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual</u> <u>Help</u>

With the uncertainty of the pandemic, we are adding the Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help to our monthly devotional services. It will be every third Wednesday of the month following the 11:00 A.M. Mass. We invite you to join us and ask our Blessed Virgin, Mother of Perpetual Help to intercede for us especially for healing in the world.



## <u>Faith Formation</u>

Our Faith Formation program will begin the first Sunday in October; **REGISTRATION FORMS ARE** DUE TO THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 30TH!

**CCD:** and preparation for First Holy Communion every Sunday after 9:00AM Mass.

**CONFIRMATION:** Registration is now open. Classes will be every Sunday after 9:00AM, taught by Ms. Jensen.

**R.C.I.A.** for adults wanting to become Catholics, or complete their sacraments. Please contact Father Leo.

For more information, please contact the office, 510-787-2052.

### <u>Garden Project!!!</u>

For those who were able to participate in Mass last weekend, if you noticed the beautiful lilies on the altar, those are Father Leo's first fruits from our garden! His hope is that he will be able to continue this sustainable source of flowers so that we can purchase fewer throughout the seasons.

We would like to involve our parishioners in this process, so any words of advice, including what cut flowers may do well, are greatly appreciated. Any donations of excess bulbs, plants, dirt, etc. would also be very kind. This is a great project that could bring us together and help us become a little more self-sufficient!

## Second Collection

