

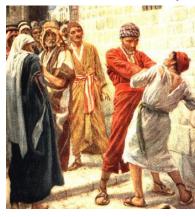
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In this weekend's gospel reading, Jesus said that the kingdom is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. He then told the parable of the forgiving king and the unforgiving servant. It seems obvious that receiving forgiveness and forgiving are related. But how can we learn to forgive? How can we learn to forgive others?

In the parable, the king forgave the servant all of his debt even though it was enormous. That forgiveness meant that the slate was clean, that the servant owed absolutely nothing, that he was accepted



as if the debt had never existed. What a gift, what mercy, what grace, what love. One wouldn't think that the servant would have felt so good that he could not have done anything but forgive his fellow servant a much smaller debt. But that is not what happened. Why not?

Haven't you sometimes had the experience of feeling anger toward yourself because of something you have done and then finding yourself almost inadvertently projecting that anger onto someone else, someone safe, someone who had absolutely nothing to do with the situation, perhaps your spouse or child? Here was a safe place for you to vent your anger, which was really anger towards yourself. Our human relationships are so complex, and we all so desperately wish to feel good about ourselves, that sometimes we do very foolish things to try to convince ourselves that we are okay, even if it means angrily putting someone else down in the process.

When we can't believe that we are really forgiven, when we can't forgive ourselves, it is easy to be like the unforgiving servant. The unforgiving servant could not believe that he was really forgiven, that his slate was clean, and that he owed absolutely nothing. The unforgiving servant believed that his debt had been merely extended, not forgiven.

But the servant was in fact forgiven, and we are forgiven. We are forgiven: our slates are wiped clean;

our debts are paid. No matter what we have done or not done, our God forgives us. And that means that God loves us and accepts us the same as if we were perfect as Christ, because through Christ we are.

What if we really experienced that forgiveness? Can we believe that we are forgiven? Can we believe that God our King forgives us and gives us clean slates? Can we believe that God our King forgives us and wipes away our failures? Can we believe that, through Christ, we are okay? Can we believe that we are accepted, that we are loved, that we are forgiven.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion



Mass Intentions for the Week

	<i>J</i>	
Tues.	September 19	11:00AM
Lena McCrossen †		Lisa Ruggeri
Wed.	September 20	11:00AM
Eliseo Villanueva	September 20	Lily Militar
(birthday) Thur.	September 21	11:00AM
Living Memorial		
Fri.	September 22	11:00AM
Gina		Lisa Ruggeri
(birthday)		
Sat.	September 23	4:30PM
Ken and John Heuss	ser Sr.	Jensen Family
and John H	eusser Jr. †	
Sun.	September 24	9:00AM
Cecilia Bernas †	M	arcella de Leon
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

Sunday Collection - September 10th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$2189
Priest Retirement Fund	\$340
St. Patrick Mission	\$152
Priest Retirement Fund	\$25

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

<u>Virtus Training</u>

It may seem as though we just switched to the Virtus training, but it has actually been 4 years! With that, all our volunteers will need to log on to the program and do a review session to keep us up to date. If you have done your training in the last two years you are good. Please log onto virtusonline.org to sign in. If you have done this in the past you will be getting a reminder email soon. 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.

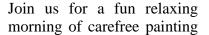
NO MATTER WHAT POSTION YOU SERVE IN OUR PARISH, YOU NEED TO DO THIS TRAINING!

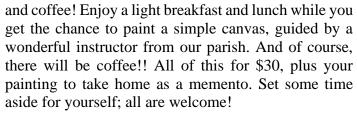
 $^{\rm A\,PROGRAM\,AND\,SERVICE\,OF}$ THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



Coffee and Canvas

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





Sign-ups in the vestibule.

Second Collection

Our second collection next weekend is for our annual Mission Cooperative Plan. This year our speaker is Father Joebert Villais, who will be representing his Diocese of Kalibo in the Philippines.

Any money that is generously donated by our parish will go towards financial support to the Mission Schools in the Diocese of Kalibo, which were badly affected by the pandemic. They are striving to keep their teachers and pupils in the mission schools as well as provide quality catholic education. Many of students come from already challenged families.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!