Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 6, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

How often in everyday life misunderstanding arise! A certain action or even a word is interpreted as a deliberate offense, and the result is anger, coldness, avoidance of communication and company. Yet, the offense may never have been intended and could have been so easily cleared by a confrontation. A newly appointed Spiritual Director of Religious Brothers once went to the infirmary to visit an elderly Brother who had been sick. Entering the room, he approached the bed and called by name. There was no response, though it was repeated twice. The sick man seemed to be coldly staring at the ceiling, refusing to speak. Troubled, the Spiritual Director withdrew wondering what he had done to deserve the treatment. Only later he earned that the sick Brother had a glass eye which never went closed. He had been fast asleep, and no offense had been intended at all.

Our Lord Jesus knows well that in our daily lives there will occur now and then misunderstandings, offenses against charity, even deliberate sins, but we are to always keep in mind that we are brothers and sisters of the one family of God, and members of the believing community, not strangers or foreigners as actions sometimes seem to indicate. If someone has done something offensive to his community or even to you in particular, if false rumors have been circulated, and a certain aloofness or coldness has set in, the simple advice of the Savior is to have a brotherly or sisterly encounter. Ask for the reason of his behavior is. Find out what causes the rift. This may take courage but the very fact that such an approach is made may settle the matter at once. An imprudent action may have given a false impression, one that was never intended. Words taken out of context can at times have a completely different meaning than the original one. Not to endeavor to settle such trifles can be the beginning of serious breaches of charity. That is why the Lord wants us to use all means at our disposal to bring about a quick reconciliation. The humble person is willing to forgive. We may need the Spirit of divine Love to carry out the advice of Jesus, but this divine Spirit we can always obtain by asking, for the Lord said: "Ask and you shall receive." Meanwhile our prayer for the offender may bring about a richer harvest than our mere words. God can soften the heart where human words do not succeed.

True love is the epitome of all the commandments regarding our fellow human beings. It is not quick to take offense, it does not brood over injuries, there is no limit to its forbearance. Love alone makes us worthy followers of Christ, who gave his life for us while we were sinners and his first word hanging on the cross was one of forgiveness

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 8**	**N/A**
Lily Militar (birthday)		Lily Militar
Wed.	**September 9**	**N/A**
Maura Bernardino †		Bob & Lydia
Thur.	**September 10**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**September 12**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**September 13**	**4:30PM**
Ann Brown		Trudi Jensen
Sun.	**September 14**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		

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