

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Fr. Dismas Clark, SJ, was widely known as the "hoodlum priest" because he dedicated twenty-five years of his priestly life to "hoodlums," that is men and women who had committed crimes. They were also Christ's sheep. Some he saved from prison cells, some from the death sentence. He built a "half- way house" called "Dismas House" and there he helped prison inmates who were rejected by public society after their release from prison, to make the necessary transition to re-entry into ordinary life, He always maintained that the only saint that was canonized by Christ personally was a "hoodlum", namely, the thief on the cross. And he constantly went after those lost and straying sheep, just as the Master did.

A very appealing picture is drawn for us this weekend in the Gospel, that of a shepherd in Palestine caring for his flock, and it truly reflects the intimate relation of Christ to His faithful followers. The shepherd knows his sheep. He is not a stranger to them. When they were born, he put a mark on each one and gave it a name. Thus, he is really interested in each one and this interest continues day after day as he accompanies them in their wanderings. All the more does Christ know his sheep. From the very moment that they became His own in baptism, he is vitally interested in each one of them individually. He put an indelible mark on them which is never to be effaced. They belong to him now and he will be their loving shepherd.

A true shepherd takes good care of his sheep. He places them in a sheep-fold or sheep-pen which he has built for them, where they can all gather together, giving warmth and energy to one another, safe from all intruders who would harm them. Christ the Good Shepherd has instituted His Church to which He entrusted His sheep. He gave her His own powers, His own Presence, His own Spirit, and the solemn assurance that all who remain in her would be safe from all harmful elements against faith and morals. In that Church, they enjoy the company of many others who have the same ideals as they do, and they impart the warmth of love and the energy of good example to one another. This mutual help and example enables the entire flock to proceed onward toward the goal with security and confidence.

We owe respect and obedience to our lawful pastors and the shepherds of Christ' flock. Despite human limitations and defects, they represent Christ Himself. They too will have to give an account of their stewardship. But unless the sheep cooperate with the shepherd, how can the flock reach its destiny.

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.	May 5	N/A
Dioscoro Militar †		Lily Militar
Wed. Special Intentions	May 6	N/A
Thur. Special Intentions	May 7	<u>N/A</u>
Fri. Gloria Banaga †	May 8	N/A Bob & Lydia
Sat. Mother's Day Novena	May 9	N/A
Sun. Mother's Day Novena	May 10	<u>N/A</u>
Port Costa Mother's Day Novena		N/A

Sunday Collection - April 26

St. Rose, Crockett \$1010 St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$35

A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND A WAY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR PARISH!

Online Donations

The Diocese of Oakland is trying to help those parishes and parishioner where online giving is not in place. To do this, they have set up a way for people to donate online through the Diocese to their own parish.

ALL DONATIONS THROUGH THIS LINK GO DIRECTLY TO THE PARISH THAT IS SELECTED.

There are a couple of ways this can be accessed.

1) Put this link directly into your internet browser:

https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support

2) Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page

Click on the Giving tab

Select the Parish Support option

This link will take you directly to the giving page. Once there, you will enter your gift information, parish affiliation, name, address, and payment preference. Once you submit, you will get a short reply confirming that the transaction was successful. A few minutes later, a message will land in your email account with a summary of the gift, including the parish it will be directed towards, and a simple thank you. The Diocese will process the gifts, which entails charging the credit or debit cards and running the bank account debits.

NOTE: Your accounts may not be charged immediately, but when the gift is processed by OMA staff.



Things are certainly very different this year, but in spite of this, and even more so, we would still like to recognize those who have done so much for us. Although we will not be able to celebrate Mother's Day and our Novena together, Father will still be remembering all those mothers and mother figures during these masses. If you have someone special that you would like remembered at these masses just send a request in the mail, drop it in our mailbox, send an email (strosecrockett@comcast.net) or even give us a call, 510-787-2052.



With the constant change that is occurring around us, the Diocese is still adhering to the following protocols:

- All social gatherings that can be rescheduled, postponed or cancelled, should be.
- All public Masses are suspended.
- ALL CHURCHES WILL REMAIN CLOSED!

We all have many questions in regard to what is going on around us, and we will keep you as up to date as possible. This is a very fluid situation, and no one has all the answers. Please just remember to take a breath, and don't make decisions in panic or haste! Due to the current stricter conditions in Contra Costa County, until MAY 31st, the Diocese has asked that all churches remain closed, even for individual prayer. Due to this we will **NOT BE OPENNING THE CHURCH** until further notice.

We know that is seems as though the parish is constantly asking for money, and this is very frustrating. Our parish family has risen to challenge every time, and we are forever in debt to that. Unfortunately, this Coronavirus epidemic is hitting us in an already bad time. If your family is able to continue to send their Sunday tithe to the parish office it may help us keep our heads above water for the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for whatever you are able to offer.