

Thirtienth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 2, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

As you watch and listen to the performance of a great pianist, you wonder, what it takes to acquire that level of artistic quality and expertise. You think to yourself, "That seems so simple. How could I do the same in my own field of interest?"

Although not all of us play the piano, we can imagine the amount of work that goes into playing with great skill and artistic expression. Not only do many hours of immediate preparation for a particular concert need to be considered, but the years of practice beforehand as well: the tedious scales and finger exercises, the hours of ear-training to detect harmonies and dissonances in a piece, and the repetition of pieces of music to develop an appropriate style and sensitivity to them. But most essential to the development of highquality performance through the long periods of practice is the ability to focus one's attention, to concentrate totally on the task at hand. The pianist who aspires to greatness needs to approach the task of playing the piano with such singleness of purpose that she or he is wholly centered on it. A disciple of Zen might describe this by saying that the pianist and the piano must become one in the playing. Experts have noted that the difference between the one who plays with the highest degree of excellence and the one who plays well is this ability to be single- minded. No small challenge to those of us who wish to excel in our own

Our following of Jesus as described in this weekend's readings is no less challenging. "They who love father or mother more than me are not worthy of me." The strength of this statement can be overpowering. Its meaning is clear. It can be neither questioned nor ignored. The disciple is called to a radical commitment to the following of Jesus. Nothing takes precedence over that commitment, not even family ties.

The radical nature of this commitment is emphasized by the author of St. Matthew with the use of the term "cross." Some commentators note that this is the first time in this gospel that "cross" appears, implying that no suffering or sacrifice is too great in the following of Jesus. Discipleship demands the total giving of oneself.

The invitation to a total self-offering in Christ is given not merely to the individual disciple but also to

the church as a whole, to that community of disciples who profess to live out the dying and rising of Jesus, the Christ, in a definitive way. Mandated to preach the meaning of the cross in each age, the church is a credible symbol insofar as it embodies the very message that it proclaims. It too, needs to die to those things which are not of God, to adjust its priorities so that its mission is clearly focused, to let go of all that detracts it from its one purpose.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	July 4	11:00AM
Marisa Villanueva		Lily Militar
Wed.	July 5	11:00AM
Mardiliza Morada †		Lily Milita
Thur.	July 6	11:00AM
Ana Ledezma †		Gina Pena
Fri.	July 7	11:00AM
Judith Fulton †		
Sat.	July 8	4:30PM
Robert Banaga †		Lily Militar
Sun.	July 9	9:00AM
Jorge, Tomasa, Jose and		
Manuel †		11.00 4 3 //
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		

Sunday Collection - June 25th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1427
St. Patrick Mission	\$355

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

MAINTEN ANCE

Our Maintenance Committee has been doing a great job of holding things together, especially through many losses in the last few years. They are in need of some help though! There are a lot of projects, small and large, coming up, and it would be great to have the support of our parishioners. No experience is needed, and any bit of assistance is appreciated. From simply helping to keep the leaves picked up, to trimming trees and maintaining our buildings. There are a lot of little things that we don't even realize get done! If you have any time to give, it would be greatly appreciated. Just call the office (510-787-2052), stop by or send an email, strosecrockett@comcast.net.





St. Patrick Mission Celebration

As one of the oldest parishes in our Diocese we are proud to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick Mission Sunday, August 20th at 10:00AM! (Graciously supported by Phillips 66.)



We are still looking for any memorabilia to help give a whole picture of beloved little our church, especially pictures! Please spread

the word. All items would stay with their owners, we would just like to scan copies of images and even jot down old stories of activities priests and anything from the past.



Special Second Collections



This weekend is our parishes' monthly collection. This month our collection is for our maintenance fund.

Next week we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous. more information, www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

