From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When traveling to an unknown, foreign land, one is always glad to have a companion who knows well that seat and can be of assistance in many ways. In the Old Testament, the story of old Tobit and his son Tobias is just such an instance. Tobit was sending his son to a far-off land and he needed some guidance. The Lord sent his angel Raphael in the form of a fellow Israelite to accompany him. Raphael proved to be an excellent guide, helper in many a need, advocate towing both wife and possessions for the young man and finally intercessor before God to obtain the cure for old Tobit's blindness. How lovingly God manifests his diving providence in the actions of Raphael for the young Tobias.

The one Gift that Jesus longed to give mankind was love. Not just any kind of love, not a passing or human love only, but the Spirit of divine love, the fullest expression of the mutual love the Father and the Son. One that summed up all other gifts as being the sum total of God's outpouring on humankind. He is the Gift of the Father, for from the Father all love proceeds. But he will be given through the Son and obtained by the pleading of Christ, whose life aim was to win for humankind this supreme gift. He labored and tilled, he preached and taught. He suffered and died in order to obtain from the Father this gift of diving love which includes all others.

He is to be Paraclete, which is helper, on who assists the followers of Christ by staying at their side, guarding them and assisting them when the going is rough and the journey difficult. He is Paraclete, which is Advocate, to take their part before the throne of the Most High against the accusations of the Evil One, and with their cause. He is Paraclete, which is intercessor, for those entrusted to his care, and he stands between the Almighty Father and the weak sinful man to plead his cause. The Lord Jesus knew how much the vacillating heart of humankind needed such a Helper to uplift him and be a constant companion along his journey in life, beset as he is with trials and temptations, with doubts and disappointments. So he gave him a Consoler, one who would strengthen him in his plodding toward the eternal goal.

As Pentecost approaches, it is only fitting that we prepare for a renewal in the Spirit, and open our hearts wide in order that God's outpouring of Love may be experienced all the more forcefully in the believing community and every member of it. United with Mary and the Apostles in the upper room, we determine to be one in mutual understanding with our fellow men and women, and one in prayer and community, so that God will find no obstacle to fill us to overflowing with his love.

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.

<u>Mass Intentions for the Week</u>

Tues.	May 19	N/A
Heather Cooley		Jensen/Littleton
		Family
Wed.	May 20	N/A
Bernardina Dela Pena †		Antonio Family
Thur.	May 21	N/A
Luzviminda Lejano Baus	stista †	Evangeline Santos
		& Family
Fri.	May 22	N/A
Lucy & Leo Bottini †		Bill & Diane
		Thomas
Sat.	May 23	N/A
David Botta †		Mr. & Mrs. Tony
		Machado
<u>Sun.</u>	May 24	N/A
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		N/A

People of the Parish

Sunday Collection - May 10

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1250
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	\$135



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



<u>Onlíne Donations</u>

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.

 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.

Coronavírus (COVID-19) Precautíons

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.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay

"In Alameda and Contra Costa County, Catholic Charities East Bay is one

of few organizations that help pay rent to prevent homelessness. They have been supporting our community through rental assistance, legal services, and providing mental health support to families and young people impacted by violence.

In the past 2 months, they provided \$309,000 to 134 families who risked becoming homeless. Sadly, due to the pandemic and ensuing economic conditions, they are experiencing a **70% increase** in requests for help.

Please give generously to this Annual Appeal. All funds exclusively support Catholic Charities East Bay's programs."

Donate Today

https://www.cceb.org/get-involved/donate/

Even a small donation is a vote of confidence in our mission and will go a long way in helping us continue to provide services to our community.