From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In this weekend's text, Jesus calls everyone to come be a part of his dominion. A woman, a Gentile woman, comes to Jesus asking him to heal her mentally ill daughter. She is called a "Canaanite," a curiously anachronistic term which St. Matthew probably intends to underscore that this person who implores Jesus is not only a woman, but also a Gentile woman, an outsider. She has three strikes against her, as far as the insiders are concerned. Jesus' male disciples know that Israel's Messiah has not come to people like her. "Send her away," they say.

The disciples' rejection of this woman does not surprise us. We can explain their actions. After all, a teacher's disciples do not always hold or exhibit the same enlightened, exalted attitudes as those of the teacher. Many of Jesus' disciples in our day worship in churches where an outsider like this Canaanite woman is excluded, or at least made uncomfortable because she is not one of "us."

But the thing which shocks us in this text is that not only the disciples but also Jesus. Can it be that Jesus, the same who said, "Come unto me," is also the one who rejects this pitiful woman as a dog." ("It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.")

The harshness of this episode cannot be explained. By saying that Jesus was testing her faith to see if she were really sincere in calling after him, or that Jesus was debating in his own mind whether or not Gentiles were worthy recipients of the gospel, or that Jesus was using her as a good example of humility for others to follow. It is an embarrassing text.

Of course, the stakes are high. And Jesus' actions can be partly explained by noting that this pleading woman was asking Jesus for a great deal. She was asking for the miraculous healing of her daughter. But more even than that, she was asking him to bestow upon her gifts that were not by right hers to claim. If



the Son of David she addressed him as, the longawaited savior of Israel, then Jesus, and the benefits of his kingdom, belonged to those who suffered in Israel, not to Gentile outsiders. There were more than enough suffering people in occupied Judea, enough people in pain, enough troubled souls to be delivered without casting blessed bread toward this Gentile dog.

And isn't that the real scandal of the text? Great is this outsider's faith. And what about our faith? What about those of us on the inside, those of us who are the privileged first recipients of the blessed bread which Jesus brings?

And for those of us who are privileged, those of us privileged to be "insiders" in the family of faith, an early Sunday morning rain shower is enough to keep us away from church. This pushy, tenacious, determined, Gentile woman saw in Jesus the nourishment her daughter so desperately needed. Her persistence is an embarrassment. We insiders take note. She hurt, she saw, she refused to be sent away empty-handed." O woman great is your faith." said Jesus

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	August 22	11:00AM
Manuel Morales†		Your Children
Wed.	August 23	<u>11:00AM</u>
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
<u>Thur.</u>	August 24	11:00AM
Marilou Padilla		Gina
(healing)		
Fri.	August 25	11:00AM
Edgar Allan & Theresa		Mom & Dad
(anniversary)		
Sat.	August 26	4:30PM
Bob Banaga †		Bill & Diane
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Sun.	August 27	9:00AM
People of the Parish		

Port Costa	11:00AM
Frank Jurik †	Family

Sunday Collection - August 13th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1453
Bishops Appeal	\$ 87
St. Patrick Mission	\$280
Bishops Appeal	\$15

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



<u>Eucharístíc Revival</u>

"Revive & rekindle the fire of the eucharist in our hearts!"



In line with the Diocese of Oakland's Eucharistic Revival celebration, St. Rose of Lima will be hosting a mass on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00PM.





<u>Faith Formation</u>

Our Faith Formation program will be starting on September 17th! Registration forms are available in the office.

CCD: and preparation for First Holy Communion every other Sunday at 10:15 AM (must be in 1st grade).

CONFIRMATION: This is a two-year formation program. Classes will be every other Sunday at 10:15AM and one weekday a month with Father Leo.

R.C.I.A. for those wanting to become Catholics. It is a two- year formation program for adults. Weekly meeting (TBA).