July 19, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Everyone has heard of the Trojan horse. For ten years the Greeks in ancient times besieged Troy, but were unable to conquer it and rescue Helen who had been kidnapped from Sparta. Then they hit upon an ingenious plan. They built a large wooden horse, hid Greek soldiers inside it, and placed it at the gates of Troy as a votive offering to the gods. Then they sailed away. Unsuspecting, the Trojans took the wooden horse into their city amid great rejoicing. But that night the soldiers hidden within crept out and unlocked the gates of Troy. Meantime the Greek fleet returned, conquered the city and destroyed it. In the course of centuries "fifth columnists" have often undermined and brought a country to ruin.

Why does the Lord allow so much evil in his Church on Earth? In the course of centuries there has been total stagnation in places, cupidity for high honors, neglect of duty, bad example, misuse of property and funds, lack of concern for the poor and the needy, and many other evils. Are not the People of God, leaders as well as the faithful, called to be as holy as Christ their Head is holy? Are they not expected to live up to their baptismal commitment to Christ, and to put away the things of darkness? Did not Christ make his Church responsible for the conversion and sanctification of humankind? Yet to this day, conditions in the People of God leave much to be desired?

The parable of the darnel shows us why. It is the mystery of evil in the world at large and in the Church in particular. It is the enemy within, who endeavors above all to infiltrate the People of God. Christ has sown the good deed seed, and fitted out his flock with well-tested shepherds. But there is another force at work whose sole purpose is to ruin the work of those who try to spread the kingdom of God. It is he who has scattered injurious seed, to choke and uproot the good, to tear away the wheat from the field of Christ. The Lord is aware of it, for he is Lord of the universe, and all things are in his hands. If he tolerates evil, there must be a good purpose he has in mind.

Evil in the Church ought not to surprise us, for every person remains human and prone to evil even after he or she committed himself or herself to Christ. But what is needed is to be on guard against the destructive influence of the Evil one. This influence is multiple today and often it is not recognized as such. Not only does it show itself in the utterly unchristian tenets and judgments of a modern neo-pagan world, but even in some of the proposals of leaders of God's people. It shows itself in utter disregard for any authority, even that granted by Christ to his Church. It shows itself in a watering down of the apostolic faith and completely relaxed interpretation of Christian morals. Are we to form our value-judgments today by the pagan tenets of the world in which we live, or by those gleaned from the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the teachings of those who represent him? How the Evil One strives to mislead God's people in these matters?

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.	July 21	N/A
Mary & Medoro Pagni		Trudi Jensen
Wed.	July 22	N/A
Living Memorial		
Thur.	July 23	N/A
Special Intentions		
Fri.	July 24	N/A
Special Intentions		
Sat.	July 25	N/A
Nancy & Jim Dooley		Trudi Jensen
Sun.	July 26	N/A
David Ponti †		Franca
Port Costa		N/A
People of the Parish		
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Sunday Collection - July 12

St. Rose, Crockett \$2127

St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa \$320



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

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St. Patrick Mission

Mass will be held in the parking/street area just in front of the church. Please bring your own seat if possible because very few chairs will be available. Space is very limited. Mass will be a little shorter than normal, and everyone will stay in their spot until the end of mass. At that time Father will invite participants up to receive communion starting with the back row and **keeping 6 ft apart at all times!** After communion, in an orderly manner, the parishioners will pick up their chairs and return directly to their cars.

As we prepare for Masses inside in the future, and to keep our outdoor Masses going, we just want to check in with all our ministers! To keep contact at a minimum Lectors, Ushers and the Welcome Committee are the members we need at this time. If you are part of any of these groups, please contact the office (510-787-2052) or talk to Father Leo when you see him to let us know how comfortable you are resuming these important duties!

For us to move inside eventually, we will also need some help in wiping down the pews and a few other items after Saturday and Sunday Masses. If anyone is willing to help, please call the office and let us know! We will not be able to have Mass indoors until we can train some volunteers to help with this.

St. Rose of Lima

Please bring your own seat and stay on the marked spots in front of the church. We will only be able to accommodate 25% of the space in the courtyard. Mass will be a little shorter than normal, and everyone will stay in their spot until the end of mass. At that time Father will invite participants up to receive communion starting with the back row and **keeping 6 ft apart on the markings!** After communion, in an orderly manner, the parishioners will pick up their chairs and return directly to their cars.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

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, or must be conducted outdoors with no more than 100 participants.

With this information, and the Contra Costa County announcement that in church services are currently not allowed. It has been verified that our outdoor Masses may continue, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS EVERYONE PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTION! SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED! Please follow these directions or we will discontinue Mass.

