



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

I've read this account from a magazine : A little over sixty years ago, a young teacher rented a house and started a secondary school for boys. There had long been one for girls run by the nuns in the local convent. The bulk of the population in this area were very small farmers, who migrated seasonally to England to boost their meager incomes to raise and educate their children. The only secondary school then available was the diocesan college which was situated in another town. Only shopkeepers, teachers and other professionals could afford boarding school fees. So there was great joy and support for this enterprising young teacher. It was short-lived. The Sunday after the "Academy" as it was grandly called, opened and the parish priest handed down an interdict from the pulpit, threatening to excommunicate all those who sent their children to this school. The reasons given were that it was a threat to the diocesan college and, more importantly, that it usurped the church's prerogative in the field of education. There was consternation. A protest was started, spearheaded mostly by women. It didn't help that the most vociferous of these were, like most mothers, themselves the wives of teachers whose school manager was the same parish priest. Deputations were sent to the bishop. The upshot of the affair was that the bishop instructed the local curate to start another school under the aegis of the church, which, in fact, opened just in time for some young boys to begin their secondary education. As for the enterprising lay teacher, he found a post in a neighboring diocesan college, where he spent the rest of his life until retirement. If he was embittered by his earlier treatment, he has left no record of it.

I have often wondered why St. Paul's vision of the church as the body of Christ, with its different parts, each exercising different functions, never really caught on. Was it because its more egalitarian overtones clashed with the more enduring vertical vision of the hierarchical church? "In the one Spirit we were all baptized." he wrote to the Corinthians, "Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now we together are Christ's body; but each of us is a different part of it." It doesn't sit well with the more familiar chain-of-command version we are accustomed to.

More than thirty years ago, when last the Holy Spirit officially intervened in church affairs at Vatican II, Pope John XXIII spoke of a "new Pentecost". The Council fathers spoke enthusiastically of collegiality and the active participation of the laity. It seemed the dawn of a new age. The church as the Body of Christ was about to become a reality. Since the old regime seems to have re-asserted itself, at least temporarily. The Body of Christ continues to bleed. If we do not share its responsibilities, we share its ills. "If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. Perhaps, it is the Holy Spirit's way of teaching us that, like it or not, the clergy and laity alike are all parts of the church, the Body of Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time, Intention. Rows include Tues. January 28 11:00AM, Wed. January 29 11:00AM, Thur. January 30 11:00AM, Fri. January 31 11:00AM, Sat. February 1 4:30PM, Sun. February 2 9:00AM, and Port Costa 11:00AM.

Second Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend's second collection is for our monthly collection. This month we are supporting our CCD/religious education fund Thank you!

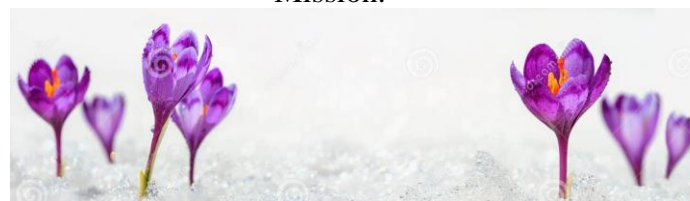


Sunday Collection - January 19th

Table with 2 columns: Location, Amount. Rows: St. Rose, Crockett \$835; St. Patrick Mission \$195

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

\*\*\*In able to meet our 2025 budgets, we would like to remind parishioners that we will need a minimum of \$2,100 for Sunday plate collections at St. Rose every weekend, and \$250 every Sunday at St. Patrick Mission. \*\*\*



First Offering Envelopes

For those that receive their parish envelopes in the mail, the January envelopes include one labeled First Offering. The money collected in this envelope helps to offset some of the cost of the envelope service the parish uses. In preparing a budget for 2025, our Finance Council found that if all of the families in our parish donated just \$20 to this collection, it would just about pay for the envelope service for the whole year!



Parish council meeting this Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00PM in the parish hall. All welcome!



St. Rose Fish Fry!

We know it may seem early, but it is time to start planning our annual Fish Fry! Please mark the date on your calendars, Friday, April 11th!



Chinese New Year Word Search

- CELEBRATION
FESTIVAL
TRADITION
CULTURE
FAMILY
HAPPINESS
PROSPERITY
LANTERNS
FIREWORKS
PARADE
FORTUNE
FESTIVE
DECORATIONS
RITUALS
CEREMONY
TOGETHERNESS
GATHERING
BLESSINGS
RESOLUTIONS
LUCK

Word search grid containing various words related to Chinese New Year.



SHOES

St. Rose will continue to collect shoes for the unhoused since it was so successful. Please remember that we really need shoes that will be warm, as well as useful in the outdoors, i.e. boots, sneakers, casual shoes, etc.

Thank you!

