Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 26, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

An old lady in El Salvador was so poor that the community had to support her, even though her son had come to America and had become very wealthy, "Why doesn't Juan help his mother?" The neighbors often whispered.

One day a neighbor dropped in and suggested that her son would surely help her if he knew of her need. As mothers always do, she defended her son: "Oh, Juan is so thoughtful, but he needs all his money. I heard life is very different in America. He is a good boy, a thoughtful son. See, he writes to me every week, the nicest letters. And in every letter he sends a picture. I don't recognize them but they are strange pictures."
"Did you save them?" asked the neighbor. "Oh, sure," replied the mother, as she reached for her Bible. The one thing she considers her most valuable treasure. "I save all his letters and put the pictures in the Good Book."

Between the pages of the Bible the visitor found hundreds of United States bank notes, more than enough to keep the old mother have a comfortable life. She had a treasure but she did not know it.

Jesus told us that the kingdom of heaven is like a hidden treasure which a man found in a field. The treasure Jesus is talking about is our faith, which makes us members of the kingdom of heaven. The treasure is our faith in Christ, our belief that He is both God and Man, that He saved us on a cross, that He will take us into heaven if we are faithful to Him. Like the unknowing mother in our story, too many of us do not realize what a treasure we have in the truths of Christ.

All of us should be like the man in the parable, ready to "sell" all we have to get the faith and to keep the faith. Thank God, practically all of us have this faith. It was given to us with little or no effort on our part. But, to keep that faith, to nourish and strengthen it, demands some sacrifice.

For example, some of you would have preferred to sleep a little longer on Sunday than come to mass, or to go fishing or play golf. But you "sold" that extra sleep, that fun of fishing or golfing, for the treasure of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion. Many of you have contributed to several charitable institutions which provide services to the poor and the needy. You exchanged a few dollars or many dollars for the treasure of helping people as Christ commanded.

In every celebration of the Mass we offer to God the bread and wine which is brought up from your midst to show that it comes from all of us. God turns that bread and wine into the Body and Blood of His Son, and presents it to us in Holy Communion. What a small price for such a great treasure. May Christ help all of us renew our faith, renew our determination to live our faith in Him, at any cost.

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 28**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**July 29**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**July 30**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**July 31**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 1**	**N/A**
Dale Arriola (Thanksgiving)		
Sun.	**August 2**	**N/A**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**N/A**
Walter Ligon †		Mary & Moira

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