From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday puts before our minds once again the coming of Christ at the end of the world. This doctrine is an integral part of Christian belief and hope. We believe that Christ will come again, and we have hope that we will then share with the Risen Christ the glory he already enjoys.

The early Christians were keenly aware of this doctrine. Apparently, some of the Thessalonians were so convinced that the second coming was just round the corner, that they concluded it was useless to work. The Second Reading this Sunday in which St. Paul stated that anyone who did not work should not eat, was originally addressed to them.

As a matter of fact, we simply do not know when Christ will come again. Jesus simply never gave an indication of the time of his second coming. When Jesus will come again does not matter, that he will come is the object of our belief and the source of our hope. Meanwhile, until Jesus does come to perfect the world, we must not sit around in idleness like some of the Thessalonians.

What all this means to us can be symbolized in the aborted Apollo XIII. We may remember that as the astronauts sped through space toward the moon, their space ship was rocked by a tremendous explosion. The original plan of landing on the moon had to be abandoned. With help and directions from Mission Control, the astronauts were able to develop a plan for returning to the earth safely. Though they could not repair their space ship perfectly, through imagination and diligence they worked at making the ship as functional as possible. They did not merely aim the ship toward the earth, where all would be well, and sit back and hope they would have a safe landing. Though the earth was their goal, they had a lot of work to do out there in space. Above all, they had to guard against any further damage to their space ship.

Our world is like Apollo XIII, and our history like its journey through space. The terrible explosion of sin nearly wrecked our world for good. With help and direction from Jesus Christ, our Savior, we are working to making this world as functional as possible. We are not moving through space toward a planet, but we are moving through time toward a moment when all will be well. That moment is the second coming of Christ. Though that is our goal, we must not spend our time in idleness. There is much work to be done on our space ship, this world.

Though Christ will come again to perfect our world, it is our Christian duty to work now to repair our world as much as possible, and to guard against any further damage. So there is much to do before the second coming. "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again." That is the object of our faith and the motive of our hope. But we cannot afford to sit in idleness until Christ comes again.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 15**	**11:00AM**
Arline J. Ramos † (death anniversary)		Pena Kids
Wed.	**November 16**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**November 17**	**11:00PM**
Thanksgiving for family		Ear Family
Fri.	**November 18**	**11:00AM**
Christina Quiapo		Mom & Dad
Sat.	**November 19**	**4:30PM**
Lyndon Balagot †		Arturo Balagot
Sun.	**November 20**	**9:00AM**
Olivia Austria Edwardes (birthday)		Marvin
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Marcelina Morales †		Your Children

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