Solemnity of the King — November 22, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The triumph of our Savior is celebrated this weekend in all the world. It is a triumph of bloodshed and destruction. Not bloodshed of people and enemies, but that of his own blood which he shed on the Cross so as to win this signal victory. Not destruction of men and women and cities, but that of Satan's hold on humankind and the consequence of that hold: sin and death. It is a triumph whereby he takes captive those whom Satan had imprisoned, and leads them from slavery to the freedom of the children of God.

Yet, the real triumph of the Savior, that which underlies all the rest is one of singular love. Jesus, the Son of God, entered into this plan and brought the flame of love to a cold and darkened earth, to a humankind lost in the maze of sinful habits and dead-end pathways. The Jews were caught up in a labyrinth of laws, the pagans in a multiplicity of gods and goddesses, the Epicureans in crass materialism, the Stoics in cold indifference. Then the Son of God leapt down from his Father's bosom and flashed the message across the skies that would electrify the world: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. As the Father has loved me, so do I love you. Love one another."

To accomplish this, he gave his followers only one commandment. Love one another as I have loved you. By keeping this one commandment, his followers would serve one another in genuine love, and thus gradually transform the entire world. That service of love would be the norm by which he would judge them when he comes again as triumphant King. Therefore, now is the time of decision. Now is the time of action.

True love entails suffering and self-sacrifice. The gift of oneself is the true manifestation of love, even though it costs at times to continue giving oneself. Husbands and wives experience this, parents and children, employers and employees, masters and servants, strangers and friends. In the Gospels, we are shown the motive enabling one to carry out this commandment of love: it is Jesus living in the hearts of every one of his members. Does he not say: "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me." And should one be surprised to hear such a statement from the lips of the King, he will tell him (or her). "As long as you did it to one of these my least brothers you did it to me." It is truly Christ who lives in the lowly and the forsaken, in the aged and the sick, in the distressed and the despairing, in the cultural minorities as well as in the affluent.

Are we going to enter into the triumph of Christ's love and help him shape up the family of God, thus preparing for his grand Parousia? Then we must be prepared to serve him in each and every one of his members, no matter how repulsive to our senses or repellant to our pride.

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.	**November 24**	**N/A**
Giovanni & Caterina Valentini †		John & June
Wed.	**November 25**	**N/A**
Ray & Mary Lou Austria †		Olivia
Thur.	**November 26**	**9:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**November 27**	**N/A**
Gregorio P. Atienza † (thanksgiving)		Mary Asuncion
Sat.	**November 28**	**4:30PM**
Sid Jensen Sr. †		Family
Sun.	**November 29**	**9:00AM**
Medoro Pagni †		Bill & Diane
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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