Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 17, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When Apollo 13 was shot toward the moon, something went wrong. It was on an erroneous course and unless a corrective could be computed in time, it would never return, and the lives of the three men were doomed. For three days and nights dozens of people at the Space Control Center at Houston in Texas worked frantically while time was fast running out. Tensions mounted as relatives at home failed to understand the long absence of husband or father, wife or sister and relations strained. But these people put aside all personal preferences. They were people for others. Totally unmindful of their own inconvenience and distress, they succeeded in bringing the three astronauts back safely and alive. Though the names of the ground crew are hardly known, they had slaved those three days and nights to save the precious lives of others.

Three times Jesus announced to his chosen band that his was a life of sacrifice, a life of total service for humankind, climaxing in his death for them. Each time they failed to enter into his thoughts. After the first announcement of his passion, Peter even remonstrated vigorously with Jesus, only to be sharply reprimanded by him. After the second announcement, the disciples seem to ignore what he told them, and begin to argue among themselves who was the greatest. Jesus chided them by saying: "If anyone wants to rank first, he must remain the last of all, and the servant of all" (Mark 9:15). But the lesson was lost on deaf ears. Now after the third announcement of the passion comes the gross misunderstanding from the side of two favorite disciples, James and John, who strike out for highest honor and glory, while Jesus himself had told them he was giving himself to ignominy and death. He had come not to be served but to serve his fellowmen. His favorite disciples crave to be served in the highest places of the kingdom. Their ambition is for worldly honors, his one ambition is for the glory of the Cross.

There is no need to go beyond our scope of activity to exemplify this principle of service. Everyone is inclined, or at least tempted at times to be selfish, to shut oneself up in an ivory castle and live only for one's little ego. But real nobility and greatness of everlasting value throws open the doors and seeks to do all in its power to come to the aid of others in loving and humble service.

For years Dr. Tom Dooley gave his life's service to healing the sick and comforting the helpless in Vietnam and Laos. As a doctor, and unmarried, he had tremendous stamina which enabled him to bring hope and joy to the hearts of thousands of distressed people of all ages. He literally spent himself and his energies for the countless children who greatly needed not only medical attention but love. But his life of service for thousands of his fellowmen and women who were perfect strangers to him was the best witness to Christianity's fundamental principle of living like Christ, not for oneself but for others.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 19**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**October 20**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**October 21**	**11:00AM**
Esparanza Valdivia		Lily Militar
Fri.	**October 22**	**11:00AM**
Dr. Florentino Ibabao †		Lily Militar
Sat.	**October 23**	**4:30PM**
Special intentions		
Sun.	**October 24**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Alice Marshall †		ICF #14

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