From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Close attention to the parts of the Mass that refer to us will show how important we are in the eyes of God. Time after time in the Eucharistic Prayer (Roman Canon), our importance as individuals, as well as a group of people assembled in God's name, is brought out. We not only pray by name for the Pope and the Bishops, but immediately after for those whom we especially mention. Individuals find their greatest importance in the family. So, we ask God to accept our offerings from the whole family. In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ at the consecration of the precious blood, the priest says to each one: "This blood is to be shed for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven." Even the dead retain their individual importance, as we pray for them in the remembrance of the dead. And then we recognize that the reality of the importance of each individual is not based on "what we truly deserve" but rather on God's "mercy and love."

There is a tendency to think in terms of numbers. So many thousands are killed in conflicts all over the world. Unless one of these people is someone from our family or friends, then he or she is just a number, not an individual with personal dignity, a smile, the ability to love, destined for eternal life.

Christ is opposed to considerations of people simply as numbers, statistics, figures on a chart, results of a poll. He speaks of one sheep, of one lost coin. Each is valuable, not because it is just one more of something, but because of itself. That's the main point of the Gospel, regardless of whether we consider one sheep out of a hundred, or one silver piece of ten, worth all the trouble to recover it. Christ did not die for us a s a group of people, but as individuals worthy of his love.

In all the troubles that beset us at this present time, it is necessary for us to check our attitudes toward other people. There is a tendency to look at people first according to the groups in which we place them. Is he or she white or black or brown? Is he or she Catholic or Jewish Muslim, Buddhist etc.? Does he or she has a foreign accent? Does he or she belong to the union? Is he or she a Priest, Religious, a Sister or a lay person? Does he or she has money? A degree? Good position? It is because we ask these and similar questions first and foremost, and noting their proper perspective, that we fail to consider the value of each human being according to the value God have him or her, the value that Christ indicates in the Gospel Reading this Sunday.

The revelation of God in this Sunday's liturgy asks us to consider our attitudes toward our fellow human being. He or she is worth the lifeblood of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 13**	**11:00AM**
Frisco (Kiko) Estipona†		Peña Family
Wed.	**September 14**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**September 15**	**11:00PM**
Mary Lou Austria†		Olivia & Marvin
Fri.	**September 16**	**11:00AM**
Lena (birthday)		Gina
Sat.	**September 17**	**4:30PM**
Alice Littleton †		Family
Sun.	**September 18**	**9:00AM**
Azucena Joson†		Rose
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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