Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 4, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Acceptance plays an important part in the working ability of any human being. Psychologically, everyone needs to be accepted for what he or she is or what he or she stands for. If he or she is not, the inner person feels paralyzed and crushed. To carry on becomes increasingly difficult.

Jesus had to put up with much unbelief in his ministry. His own towns people were skeptical of him, because he had lived an ordinary life in their midst for many years. He was a common laborer, a layman for many years with no special education. (He was not a priest of the order of Levi and could not enter the Holy Place of the Temple). He gave no promise of being the spectacular deliverer they believed the Messiah would be. His incredulity and lack of faith dogged his steps all the years to follow. The leaders contradicted him. His own brothers did not believe in him. The great throng of followers melted away, once he began to instruct them with deeply spiritual realities. His enemies plotted his death, and one of his own intimate friends betrayed him. Only a few faithful followers remained at the end.

It is hard to work with a hostile audience. It is very painful and frustrating to realize that you are not accepted by those you came to help and even save from dire calamity. Jesus could well have been often tempted to quit. But he did not quit. He faced the situation, convinced that in all this the Father's will would be accomplished, although he saw clearly as time went on that it was through his sufferings and death that he would bring salvation to the world. Despite the refusal of his own people to believe, he bore his cross to the bitter end. But by his death, he won for us life.

The sin of unbelief is rampant today also. Many a Christian is tempted to doubt the efficacy of the Christian faith in face of so much evil in the world: wars, oppression of the poor, the avalanche of immoral practices flaunted by the mass media, the tragedy of natural disasters and epidemics, starvation and many others. What is the meaning of sorrow, evil and death, which continue to exist despite so much progress in the world? Those that thought scientific advancement alone to be humankind's salvation and happiness are confronted with the possible destruction of all humankind through nuclear weapons. Advanced technology also brings totally new problems which baffle even the scientists. Industry is causing the death of the great cities through air and water pollution. Unemployment stalks many countries like a ghost.

Yet, I believe there is so much good on earth. There are many who are following Christ with firm faith and ardent love. The Spirit raises up loyal families to live their lives in noble Christian fashion. The Spirit moves men and women of all races and ages to seek God in the depth of their hearts and come to the help of their fellow human beings in sincere charity. Humankind turns anew to God in the faith of their fathers. That is our response and our contribution: faith in Christ who alone can bring salvation and fulfillment to every human heart and to humankind at large.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 6**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**July 7**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**July 8**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**July 9**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**July 10**	**4:30PM**
Laurie Taylor †		Dennis & Donna Hoffman
Sun.	**July 11**	**9:00AM**
Theresa (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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