Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 2, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

No problem! Two words: abrupt, dismissive, assuring, urgent; the contemporary panacea for all that riles human behavior; the universal antiphon shutting out the entreaties of all who cry in the wilderness. Two little words.

No problem! In a moment, mouthed before the last words of lament pour out from hurting hearts; in a moment, two little words take charge. Promising to deal with whatever it is that troubles or assaults, the words assure victory and peace. Perils may ensnare; accidents, hurt, doubts wrack us. The road has become bumpy, apparently impassable; we cannot go back, and there seems no path open ahead. We cry out in a thousand different experiences born of the human condition, and out of the darkness we hear, "No problem!"

We have been heard; someone is answering our cry. What is more, whoever is speaking implies that help is forthcoming and that it will be given. We like that, for no one wants to walk a bumpy road throughout life. Life could be so much better, so much happier were there are no annoyances! The slogan "No problem" proclaims the fervent desire of the human heart, a word free of distress, a life devoid of trouble. "No problem": laughs at our hurts, accusing us of a kind of self-pitying myopia. Put on your rose-colored glasses, this is really the best of all possible worlds. There are no problems. You're making them up.

But we know otherwise. We hurt; the hurt does not go away. A spoiled marriage, a floundering career, the little annoyances of other people, the noisy neighbors, surly kids, whining parents, demanding bosses; phony words by politicians, business leaders, advertisers and colleagues we want to trust; words that deceive and delude and mock: and we hear "No problem".

Something inside us whisper with annoying persistence and frequency that we could be, should be doing better. Our minds create standards and guidelines to deal with our hurts: diet and exercise for our bodies, more and better reading and less TV for our minds; a lock on our lips and a cleaning out of ears and brain to be more willing to listen and not snap out. But the machines which promise to turn out a new person do not always work. And when we cry out, all we hear is "No problem".

Against such honest scrutiny, the church holds up Jesus. Come to me. I will refresh you. My yoke is easy, my burden light. Yoke is a nasty word; we need no other burdens, we say. But all of us are burdened and in one way or another live under the yoke. Some yokes of our own making are really the cause of our problems.

But the yoke Jesus offers steers us. Behavior learns to look after others, their needs, their persons., Trust, gentleness and concern rise within and take over. Simple human values become important, necessary, imperative. Gone are all the complicated devious mechanisms that we cranked out in our own interests. No more need we connive and pretend. The yoke is easy, the burden is light.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 11**	**11:00AM**
Louis Ruggeri †		Lisa Ruggeri
Wed.	**July 12**	**11:00AM**
Theresa (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Thur.	**July 13**	**11:00AM**
Omar Peter Pedra-Fortich†		
Fri.	**July 14**	**11:00AM**
Gloria Merana Romans		Marcella de Leon
Sat.	**July 15**	**4:30PM**
Thanksgiving		Chua Family
Sun.	**July 16**	**9:00AM**
Cecilia Bernas†		Lacsina Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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