Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Times — March 2, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

We live in an age of marvels such as computers, televisions and space travel. Almost every day, modern wonders unfold. Who knows what will be the next? And yet one of the greatest marvels which we experience every day dates back to the dawn of the human race. It is the wonder of language. In fact, without language it is difficult to see how the marvels of our age could possibly have developed since collaboration among humans would have been extremely difficult, probably even impossible.

Human language did not simply evolve over millennia. Language is the gift of God since it flows from the truth that we are made in the image and likeness of God. It lifts us as human beings far above other creatures, and actually makes us like God. From all eternity God himself utters a Word. That Word we know from revelation is his divine Son who was in the beginning with God and is God. All our human words, no matter what the language, are a sharing in the one Word of God. So precious is God's gift of language that we must not abuse it.

Our words come forth from us as fruits come forth from a tree. Bad fruit comes from a bad tree. And so Sirach in today's first reading warns us that a human person's faults appear when he speaks. On the other hand, good fruit comes from a good tree. And so Jesus tells us that a good man produces goodness from the good in his heart. Our human words are, or should be, an expression of our goodness.

Of course we humans are free to use God's gifts for right or for wrong. At times, we say good things, at times, bad. At times we express respect and love with our words; at times, impatience and hostility. At times we tell the truth; at times, we do not.

We may agree that we should not abuse God's gift., but trying to correct our words without changing our hearts is like trying to produce good fruits from a bad tree. We need change within ourselves. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "Each man speaks from his (or her) heart's abundance.

What should be the abundance in our heart? With what goodness should it be filled? With nothing other than the abundant goodness of God. Every Sunday at Mass we hear words, very important words,words which reflect the Great Word of God. We hear the words of Sacred Scripture, Christ, the Word of God speaks to us when the words of Scripture are proclaimed during the liturgy. From these sacred words we learn about God and we learn about ourselves.

If our heart is filled with the goodness of God, our words will be filled with goodness. We will not use words for evil but for good. We would do well if people who hear us speak could sense that we speak as Jesus did on this earth. "To our words, then, they could rightly respond, "Thanks be to God."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 4**	**11:00AM**
Valencia Rose Ty		Lola & Lolo
Wed.	**March 5**	**11:00AM, 6:00PM**
Alvin Cachaper (birthday)		Alma & Jong
Thur.	**March 6**	**11:00AM**
Father Dillon†		Parish
Fri.	**March 7**	**11:00AM**
John Barassi†		ICF #14
Sat.	**March 8**	**4:30PM**
Delilah (birthday)		Grandma Josie
Sun.	**March 9**	**9:00AM**
C. Essex (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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