Second Sunday of Lent — February 28, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

It is one thing to know about a person, his or her life and his or her teaching, and quite another thing to know that person with loving knowledge and genuine friendship. Many know a good deal about Christ, his life and teaching, but it is quite another thing to know Christ personally. That comes with a personal encounter with Christ in the depth of one's heart or Christ discovered hidden in one's fellow human being. Such is the encounter that changed St. Paul from a rabid persecutor of Christ to his most ardent follower and champion. And such a spiritual experience is changing many today both young and old from a lukewarm, careless way of life, even from a life of sin and all manners of indulgence, to a fervent and meaningful life of genuine Christian commitment. They have experienced a deep insight into his love for them and feel impelled to make a return of love by leading a life worthy of Christ's love. It is amazing how many people of all classes have had this experience in this our day of materialism and permissiveness.

Saints Peter, James, and John had been in the company of Jesus for a long time already. Daily they had seen his exemplary life, heard his dynamic words, listened to his parables and their explanations, witnessed his signs and miracles and shared his companionship. But on that day when they climbed the mountaintop with Him, something happened. They could not explain it too well. None of the saints have been able to describe adequately their deeply spiritual encounters with the Deity. But they never doubted the reality of that special experience which they enjoyed that day. It formed part of the kerygma of the Early Church and all three evangelists narrate it at some length (Mark 7:1; Matthew 9:1; Luke 9:28). Jesus knew only too well that his trusted friends would need strengthening for the great hour of trial that lay ahead, the hour of his passion and death. God gives his friends special graces and favors before letting them the bitter cup of suffering and letting them share a greater portion of the cross. He foresees that unexpected failure, that illness paralyzing all effort, that death entering to the family circle, that hour of discouragement because of personal disgrace or losses. It is part of our growing in Christ, part of our becoming more like the Master, that we shoulder our cross humanly and willingly, bitter though it may be. But before the blow falls, he grants his beloved one beforehand special marks of his love, glimpses of God's plan, a tasting of God's immense love, joys that fill the heart with delight in the things that God has provided. God's presence seems so real again, Christ's gentle and personal care so manifest.

God's special graces are given with a purpose. We do not wish to default.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**March 2**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**March 3**	**11:00AM**
Yumi Capile (Thanksgiving)		Imelda
Thur.	**March 4**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**March 5**	**11:00AM**
A.J. Bernas (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Sat.	**March 6**	**4:30PM**
Ray & MaryLou Austria †		Olivia
Sun.	**March 7**	**9:00A**
Fr. Ciaran Dillon †		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††