Fourth Sunday of Easter — May 8, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Early in his political career Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois was verbally assailed by an Illinois voter who said, "I wouldn't vote for you, Senator, if you were St. Peter himself." Smiling benignly the Senator replied, "If I were St. Peter, sir, you wouldn't be in my district."

Fortunately, each one of us has been invited to be a member of St. Peter's district, the Church. By our own baptism we have been brought into the sheepfold of Christ. During the celebration of the Mass, we should think not only of ourselves and our own welfare and security. We should also think of the needs of others, since the sheepfold of Christ is indeed for all peoples of all places. St. Paul and Barnabas in the First Reading, traveled far from home to preach Christ. When some of their fellow Jews rejected their preaching, they were undaunted and turned to the Gentiles. They did so in order to follow out the instruction of the Lord: "I have made you a light to the nations, a means of salvation to the ends of the earth."

All Catholics, especially through the sacrament of Confirmation, have the obligation of spreading the truth of Christ. And yet, in the Church some persons have been given a specific role in proclaiming Christ, they are priests and religious. There is such a manifest need for good priests and religious that the Pope has set this Sunday aside as a World Day of Prayer for priestly and religious vocations.

Perhaps you fell that praying for good priests and religious has little meaning, since God will always provide for his Church. It is true that God will provide, but he wishes to give vocations to young men and women in response to prayer. Take St. Paul for example. We observed him in the First reading as a dedicated preacher of Christ, but St. Paul was not always such. In fact, he persecuted the Church of Christ. When St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, met his death, Paul stood by looking after the cloaks of those who were stoning Stephen, and Paul approved of his death. In his last moments Stephen prayed for his persecutors, and St. Augustine commented later on this incident: "If Stephen had not prayed, the Church would not have gained Paul." St. Augustine spoke of the power of prayer from his own experience. As a young man he led a dissolute, selfish life with no regard for the teachings of Christ. One person never gave up on him -his mother, St. Monica. Through her prayers, Augustine received the grace from God to become an outstanding bishop, a great theologian, and a saint.

That the pope himself today asks for prayers from all Catholics is itself a sign of how valuable our prayers are. Let us join together during the mass in begging God the grace of good vocations. Parents should be thinking of their children. Pray that God will direct them in their choice for calling in life and that, if it be his will, they may respond to a priestly or religious vocation.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 10**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Olivia & Marvin
Wed.	**May 11**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**May 12**	**11:00PM**
Nancy Dalisay †		Lily Militar
Fri.	**May 13**	**11:00AM**
Matthew del Rosario Banaga †		Grandparents
Sat.	**May 14**	**4:30PM**
Johanna Ochinero †		ICF #14
Sun.	**May 15**	**9:00AM**
Mary Pagni †		Bill & Diane Thomas
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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