Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 7, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This weekend's readings can shed light in the ongoing discussion about the church through the image of "paradoxical house." In Acts 6, we see church as household. We are presented with an everyday occurrence: disagreement, discord in the community.

The Hellenists, those Christians who spoke Greek, are not receiving their share of the communal goods. A resolution is required.. The text does not tell us what the solution is, but rather continues to speak of another problem: Some of the members are overworked in the service of the community. Their many duties lead them to neglect those they think are the most important. A solution is found. A new office is created, new people are selected to become leaders in the community. This all bespeaks flexibility and growth, optimism and imagination. In the remark : a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith" we sense the excitement in the community of new converts, the newness of the message, the pride in the community in the spread of the belief in the proclamation of Jesus as the one sent by the Spirit. Here we see the church as "organization," as institution with the need for means of settling disputes, for expanding governance, for allowing equal sharing for all, a household in which solutions are sought in an atmosphere of love, consideration and enthusiasm.

In 1 Peter, the faithful are exhorted to become living stones in the structure which is the house of God. The metaphor draws on two qualities of stone as an image. Stone as material used for construction of a building is used in a positive sense. We are the building blocks through which the house of God comes into being. Stone as dead, as opposed to living matter, is used to emphasize the contrast between a physical house of stone and the house of God which is build of living units replete with life, not only physical, but spiritual. In a further step this reading speaks of the stones which church members are, as more than living, as precious, as jewels calling to mind the holy city of the Apocalypse gleaning with "radiance like a most rare jewel."

The gospel reading speaks of the inside of the house that is the church. Its setting is the most intimate form of community, the meal. In this context we hear Jesus
speaking of the house of the Father, where he will prepare dwelling places for those who believe. In Jesus' farewell address, dwelling becomes the metaphor for living united with God. Jesus stresses that not only will he prepare a dwelling for those faithful with the Father, but that he is the dwelling place of the faithful with the Father. The Father also dwells in the Son. Just as faith is needed to grasp the value of the living stones which make up the community of the people of God in 1 Peter, so too in John 14, faith in Jesus is essential. Jesus is the way to the dwelling place with the Father.

Thus the readings for this weekend present many levels of the life of the church: (1) the practical institutional "household," (2) the place in which the living dialectic between the written word and the interpreting community is conducted, (3) the structure composed of living inspired beings united in faith to form the body of Christ (4) the father's house of many dwellings which Jesus has prepared for us.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Sunday Collection – April 30th

St. Rose, Crockett	$1387
St. Patrick Mission	$405

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. May 9 11:00AM
NO MASS!

Wed. May 10 11:00AM
Mother's Day Novena

Thur. May 11 11:00AM
Mother's Day Novena

Fri. May 12 11:00AM
Mother's Day Novena

Sat. May 13 4:30PM
Mother's Day Novena
Matty Banaga † Grandad† & Wawa Lydia

Sun. May 14 9:00AM
Mother's Day Novena

Port Costa 11:00AM
Mother's Day Novena

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