From the Desk of Fr. Leo

It is interesting to note the difference between Zacchaeus' acceptance of Christ the grown man, and the rejection of Christ the child by the inn keeper of Bethlehem. One has room for Christ, the other does not. Isn't that pretty much the treatment Christ receives today? Not so much in his person, but in his members. We accept Christ in the people we like, and reject him in those who don't appeal to us. I am sure that most of the crowd was displeased that Christ would talk with Zacchaeus, or that he would allow Zacchaeus to invite him into his house, and accept the invitation.

Zacchaeus was a prominent official. This didn't keep him from climbing a tree in order to catch a glimpse of Jesus. He was a tax gatherer and collected duties over the entire district of Jericho. As we know, this did not make him popular with the people. Whatever the crowd saw in Zacchaeus, Jesus saw in him a son of Abraham, a true Israelite without guile, whose mindedness and ingenuous conduct was evidence of himself that went deeper than mere curiosity -whatever Zacchaeus himself may have thought of it at the time. Legally, Zacchaeus could not have been held to repay back fourfold where he may have cheated others. This was voluntary on his part And this voluntary commitment Jesus accepted on its face value.

So here we have mutual acceptance. Christ offered salvation to Zacchaeus, and the tax gatherer offered his friendship to Christ. This beautiful mutual acceptance of Christ and Zacchaeus can be a prototype of our mutual acceptance of one another. Zacchaeus was not perturbed by negative reaction against his desire to see Christ and be friends with him. And he seems to have acted out of a right conscience. This does not mean a perfect one, but one which was honest. Christ taught him much by word and example, and Zacchaeus seems the kind of man who would reject his life accordingly. So it is with us. Conscience is our practical judgment, by which we judge here and now what is to be done as being good, and what is to be avoided as evil. Our acceptance of Christ demands that we form a right conscience in regard to his teachings as recorded in the Scriptures, and as interpreted by the Church down through the centuries. The problem is to form a right conscience. This must be done through prayer, study, consultation, and an honest facing of the facts. This is especially true of such difficult matters as birth control and the education of children. These are difficult matters to discuss. The main purpose of mentioning them is that they touch upon our relationship with Christ. They are crucial to our acceptance of one another. They do deserve careful consideration. Otherwise, we may be accepting Christ only partially.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 1**	**9AM, 6PM**
Estela Mostiales†		Zeny Roque
Wed.	**November 2**	**11:00AM**
Victor Roque†		Zeny Roque
Thur.	**November 3**	**11:00PM**
All Departed Souls		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**November 4**	**11:00AM**
Rocco Enea †		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**November 5**	**4:30PM**
Asuncion O. Balagot †		Arturo Balagot
Sun.	**November 6**	**9:00AM**
Jorge, Tomasa, Manuel & Jose		Delgado Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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