Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 24, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Helen Keller who was both blind and deaf, once asked a friend what she saw in the woods out of which they were emerging. “Nothing much”, replied the friend, “just some trees and some flowers”. “Oh! But there was so much beauty in that woods” responded Helen, “I felt the various shape of the leaves, their different veins, the roughness or smoothness of the bark of the trees, the shape of the petals of the flowers, the size of the flower and its general contour, and I could not help admiring the wisdom of the Almighty who gave such order and variety to his creation”. If a blind woman can appreciate nature in such a wonderful way, we ought to appreciate much more the gift of sight, whereby we can also see color, shape, beauty and variety in God’s creation.

He was blind! But he wanted to see. His only hope was Jesus who was passing by. For long years he had groped his way in the streets, he was helped upstairs or into rooms by other persons, he heard them clapping when a parade was passing by, he listened to them admiring the blossoming trees, the flaming sunset, the myriad of stars at night. But he could never see them. All was dark for him, perpetual night. He had learned to help himself as best he could, but he could not earn a livelihood, so he had turned to begging. How often people repulsed him, cursed him! They had not the least understanding or sympathy for his condition. He could not help it that he was blind. He did not know why the Lord in heaven had let him be blind. Did not all those who had the ability to see, know that it was truly a gift of God? Could they not take pity on one who did not have that gift?

But now there was a ray of hope that came into the gloom of darkness. The wonder-worker of Nazareth was passing by. He could cure him. He could receive from him the gift of sight! This was his only chance. So, he cried out as loud as he could: “Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me”. That cry made the crowd look around. To call him “Son of David” meant to acknowledge him as Messiah, King of Israel. Many in the crowd did not like that, especially the Pharisees. He might be a prophet, they thought, but never the Messiah! He had no standing, no education! So, they turned on the blind Bartimaeus and scolded him sharply, trying to intimidate him and keep him quiet. But for Bartimaeus, Jesus was his only hope. He cared nothing for the words of the crowd, but cried out all the louder with increased hope and faith. Jesus heard his request. He acknowledged his profession of faith. And he restored his sight. What a joy! He could see!

There are many physically and spiritually blind people in the world today. It is those who are spiritually blind who really need the Savior, because unless they learn to see in him their sole hope of salvation, they will never see the Light that is the Eternal Day. It is up to the faithful Christians who believe in Christ, to bring others to that blessing of true Light by their prayers, by their labors, yes, by their missionary efforts.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 26**	**11:00AM**
Elias Valdivia Sr. (healing)		Lily Militar
Wed.	**October 27**	**11:00AM**
Little Matthew †		Grandad & Lola
Thur.	**October 28**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**October 29**	**11:00AM**
Bailey Militar (birthday)		Lily Militar
Sat.	**October 30**	**4:30PM**
Banaga Family		Bob & Lydia
Sun.	**October 31**	**9:00AM**
Richard, Clementina & Faustino Pagni †		Barb & Ed
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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