Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 25, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

What a masterpiece is the human body! All the members are coordinated so that the best effect is obtained. Continually the heart sends the blood pulsing through the arteries. How faithfully the brain reacts to the least impulse! Without let-up the lungs breathe in oxygen and gave out waste matter. Each organ has its own task to perform without encroaching on any of the others. The more one studies the human body, the more one marvels at it. Yet what gives it life energy, movement, purpose? The spirit in man, that life-giving principle, the soul. Without the inner spirit, the body lies lifeless. It cannot move, it cannot act. And soon it decays and turns to dust. The same holds good in the supernatural realm. It is the Spirit that gives life.

As long as Jesus fed the crowds, healed their ailments and showed himself interested in their well-being, they flocked to him, held him in greatest esteem, followed him wherever he went and wanted to proclaim him as king. But when he continued to reveal to them the deep mysteries of his divine message, the realities of the supernatural world and of his kingdom, realities which men's minds would not be able to grasp by mere human reasoning, without the help of the Spirit of God, many backed down. They lacked the gift of faith. Thus, when he revealed to them the mystery of the Eucharist, that he would give them his Body and Blood for their nourishment, they became angry and departed from him. They walked no more with him. Jesus was deserted by the large number of his one-time followers.

It must have been a keen disappointment for the Heart of Christ to see the crowds dwindle away, without whom he had taught so often, healed their ailments, and fed in the wilderness. Instead of gratefully accepting his offer, and trusting that they knew what he was about, they broke out in angry complaints. Then he told them frankly: What you need is the Spirit. "It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless." Why did they not ask him for the Spirit to help them accept his words on faith? Why did they not say with the Samaritan woman: "Give me of this water so that I do not again grow thirsty." Why did they not cry out with the father of the boy who was possessed: "I do believe. Help me to believe still more.

This is what is needed today: renewal in the Spirit of Christ so as to revitalize our faith in the Eucharist. Only the Spirit can make us penetrate more deeply into the mystery of God's love. Day and night our Eucharistic Lord remain with us in thousands of churches and chapels all over the world especially in this Catholic land of ours. Not only does the Eucharist refresh and strengthen us for the daily battle, but gives us the guarantee for a life that never ends. That life is worth striving for.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**August 27**	**11:00AM**
Remedios De Leon †		Marcella
Wed.	**August 28**	**11:00AM**
Ramon Macapagal †		Marcella
Thur.	**August 29**	**11:00AM**
Christian A. Lacsina (birthday)		Lacsina Family
Fri.	**August 30**	**11:00AM**
Dionisio Junio Sr.† & Dionisio Junio Jr.		Buenaflor- Roth Family
Sat.	**August 31**	**4:30PM**
Elyse Mathea (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Sun.	**September 1**	**9:00AM**
Janice Ianne (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††