Palm Sun day April 5, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Sir Thomas More was an outstanding Catholic layman who lived over 400 years ago. He was the first layman to be appointed Lord Chancellor of England, next in authority to the king himself, King Henry VIII. The king has a deep personal liking for More, because of his learning and skill, and because of his wit and friendly nature. But More lost favor with the king when he refused to acknowledge the king as head of the Church of England, and then opposed the king's divorce and remarriage. King Henry VIII had More beheaded in 1535. Four hundred years later the Catholic Church declared Sir Thomas More blessed, later on canonized as a saint.

Saint Thomas More ran a truly Christian, Catholic home. There were prayers every day with a short reading from the Bible. With his wife and children and frequent visitors he discussed spiritual ideas around the table. He attended Mass every day and recited the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin. He sang in the church choir and at times served Mass. The poor and needy were always welcome as were people of learning and talent. Seldom did he invite the rich and renowned. It was an ideal situation - his church helped his home and his home helped his church.

My suggestion is that we do something like that. Whether or not you can attend any or all services in church these coming days, try to keep Holy Week in your home. Start this Sunday. Put your palm branches or leaves in some prominent place; for instance, in a vase on the table or television. Talk about what it means - we honor Christ as King with the crowd of the First Pal Sunday. Between now and Holy Thursday, family and meal prayer should be more meaningful and devout. You might read small portions of the story of Christ's sufferings and death, as told to us several times this week.

On Holy Thursday make a special effort to have the family eat together. At the meal, someone, preferably the father, should remind everyone of what took place on the first Holy Thursday: Jesus began the first Holy Mass; for the first time Jesus gave us Himself in Holy Communion; Our Lord established the Catholic priesthood. Pray for all our priests.

Every truly Catholic home has a crucifix. Put it in a different place this Good Friday to emphasize its meaning: it tells of the death of Jesus for all of us. On Saturday, light a candle in some prominent place to represent Christ, the Light of the world, who lights up every grave in the world. Think about Easter's meaning. Yes! your home is a church. Renew all things in Christ and for Christ. Start in your home. Celebrate Holy Week there. Try also to be in church. Do everything possible to remember the tremendous truths we relive during this coming week.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. April 7 N/A
Rosela Villanueva (birthday) — Lily Militar

Wed. April 8 N/A
Fr. Ciaran Dillon† — Lily Militar

Thur. April 9 *Holy Thursday* N/A
Fr. Ciaran Dillon † — Imelda

Fri. April 10 *Good Friday* N/A
Julia P.Magno † (birthday) — Bernardina †
Thomas

Sat. April 11 *Easter Vigil* N/A
People of the Parish

Sun. April 12 *Easter Sunday* N/A
People of the Parish

Port Costa N/A
People of the Parish

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