Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — November 14, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When Palestinian guerillas hijacked a French plane and interned over one hundred Israeli in Entebbe, Uganda, a special group of trained Israeli executed a marvelous surprise attack in the Uganda airport where they were interned. The rescue was completely unexpected; it happened with blitz suddenness, and it was carried out with perfect precision. The plans for rescue were top secret. The Parousia's final breakthrough is also top secret, known only to the Father, and it will come totally unexpected.

The Lord is coming! That was the watchword of the early Christians. Full of expectation, they eagerly awaited the grand event which would be the crowning victory of the Savior. At times there were false prophets among them stirring up the faithful to fear and dread of impending disaster (like some self-styled prophets even today), but the genuine Christian sentiment was geared to a different dimension. They were not filled with foreboding at the thought of Christ's coming, but with joy and longing. Had they not put on Christ in baptism, and carried his cross in their daily lives? They had endeavored to follow him and live his gospel message. Was there any room for fear then at the thought of his coming in glory? The final stage of Christ's salvific work would bring total redemption.

God did not reveal the time of Christ's glorious triumph. No matter how often the self-made prophets determine a definite year for the so-called end of the world, an all-wise God deemed it far better for humankind to be left in the dark about the time of the Parousia. Meanwhile, each succeeding generation could prepare itself by vigilance. One thing both the Lord and the Apostles made clear: it shall come suddenly and unexpected. Jesus said: Be on guard therefore. The Son of Man will come when you least expect him" (Luke 12:40).

This weekend the liturgy has re-inserted the thought of the Coming of Christ several times in the Eucharistic sacrifice, especially after the elevation, when the faithful proclaim: "Christ will come again", and the priest repeats this after the Our Father. We are thus strongly reminded of the grand event to come, in order to prepare properly by holiness of life. We can and ought to make the prayer of the early Christians our own: "Maranatha, the Lord is coming!" Or that of the Book of Revelation: "Come, Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:20).

We ought not be too gullible in believing all manner of supposed private revelations especially those with dire forebodings. Jesus told us to be vigilant, and St. Paul urges us to prepare by becoming more holy each day. The Scripture warns the sinner that if he (or she) continues in his (or her) sinful ways, the Day of the Lord will overtake him (or her) unprepared when he (or she) least expects it. But it does not frighten the faithful followers of Christ with horrors and threats. The Day of the Lord will come for each one individually in God's own time.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 16**	**11:00AM**
Edith Nemis (healing)		Lily Militar
Wed.	**November 17**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**November 18**	**11:00AM**
Lily Militar (recovery)		
Fri.	**November 19**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**November 20**	**4:30PM**
Olivia Austria Edwardes (birthday)		Marvin Edwardes
Sun.	**November 21**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Marcelina Morales †		Your children

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