Third Sunday of Lent — March 7, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Change affects people in different ways. Many welcome it when structures have become outmoded, stagnating, paralyzing. They realize that changes are at times not only good but imperative, if the organism is to continue in vigorous and fruitful activity. Others are allergic to any change. Often, they fail to distinguish between changing essentials and things that are non-essential, and oppose every change as a challenge to the "status quo". It may be on account of a lack of openness to new developments and realities of a changing world or a spirit entrenched in its own narrow outlook. Or again it may be a fear of the risk of the new, because one has not kept up with the world around. Those who see the need of structural changes and are helpless to bring them about, suffer greatly. Jesus did not fear to make changes when he saw they had to be made.

For years the traders had encroached in the sacred Temple precincts with their sheep and oxen, their doves and exchange cashiers. Here change was not only useful but imperative. It was the House of God and Christ let nothing stand in the way until he had cleansed the Temple, even though it meant a show of great indignation and fierce anger. He restored the sacred halls as a house of prayer, his Father's House.

In doing so, the Lord symbolized that far greater changes were at hand. The material Temple, the sacrifice of animals, the minute ceremonial prescriptions of the law for worship in God's house were about to be abolished and taken over by a more perfect form of worship for the People of God, of the New Covenant. He was the Living Temple of God, the offering of himself would henceforth be the only sacrifice pleasing to the father, a new rite of worship in a sacrificial meal would be established for all future time. Old structures were no longer sufficient. The New Covenant in his Blood would demand structures that were not focused on the Law but were Christocentric.

In the world at large, the Church is the Body of Christ and the living temple of the Spirit. Also, here structures become decrepit. Institutions that were established to help those in need are no longer sufficient or have become impractical. The realities facing the Christian world are changing rapidly and quickly. Today the Church has become more aware of minority groups, those that are marginalized, those who are living in subhuman conditions, those who are not able to make a decent living for their families, those that are forced to work in conditions unworthy of a human person. Action is necessary, and bold action. Structures need to be reformed and transformed. Not with violence that would harm others or their properties, but with peace and complete regard for human lives.

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.	**March 9**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**March 10**	**11:00AM**
Corazon Francisco Sotto†		Gloria Brinker
Thur.	**March 11**	**11:00AM**
Essex (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Fri.	**March 12**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**March 13**	**4:30PM**
Francis Doherty†		Jensen Family
Sun.	**March 14**	**9:00A**
Niko Bernas		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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