Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — February 6, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This Sunday in the liturgy could well be called "Vocation Sunday." In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah described his call by God. In the second reading, St. Paul spoke of his own vocation to be an apostle by the grace of God. Finally, in the gospel we saw St. Peter's call to be a "fisher of men." All three left one form of life for another that God has chosen for them. The new life was more demanding, and required both sacrifice and perseverance. And each of the three stuck to the new life chosen by God.

Strangely enough these days, some priests are going in the opposite direction. They are leaving the priesthood to which they have been called for other vocations. They are not persevering; they are not sticking to the job. But this lack of perseverance is not confined to the priesthood or religious life; it is a syndrome of a society. Divorce is becoming more frequent, and laws are being changed to make divorce even easier. It used to be that people pretty much settled down in one community for almost all their lives, but moving from place to place has become almost a characteristic of our society. College deans report that students in great numbers than ever before are changing their majors. You probably know many people who are dissatisfied with their jobs, and are constantly looking for something else. Even with all the changes in the Mass, some people seem to become quickly bored and want something new and different. Perhaps with all the bombardments of our senses through entertainment media and many experiences that are open to people today, we have become jaded. Perhaps with the great amount of leisure that modern gadgets afford us, we have become bored. Jaded and bored we easily become dissatisfied.

I believe that the attitude of mind we have makes a big difference. We are bound to have failures and discouragement. We always get a little bored doing the same things over and over again, especially the older we get. Yet one of the greatest graces God gives us is the grace of a new beginning every day. No matter how many mistakes we make, no matter how we may botch up our lives, we can always begin again. Here is an outlook on life that may help; each day is like a whole new life time.

When we awake in the morning, we are bleary-eyed and a little groggy. As we say, we are not operating on all cylinders. We are somewhat like a new baby just being born. With the first cup of coffee, we begin to wake up and gradually come to full vigor, like a person in his or her youth. Then the work of the day begins. As the day wears on, we begin to wear out. We start to get tired and weary, like a person in old age. Finally, the day is over and it is time for welcome rest and sleep. Sleep is a biblical symbol of death, as it is in much poetry, and so when we go to sleep, it is like dying, like ending our life. But we wake up the next morning, and a whole new life lies before us. We can forget the past with all of its frustrations and boredom, and start to make the most of the new life that God has given us.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**February 8**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**February 9**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**February 10**	**11:00AM**
Ben & Norma Mangabat		Lilibeth Licad
Fri.	**February 11**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**February 12**	**4:30PM**
Andrew Maguire†		Maguire Family
Sun.	**February 13**	**9:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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