Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 1, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

If anyone wants to be a professional in his or her line, there is need of constant progress, and the endeavor to increase one's knowledge and ability. Doctors who do not keep up with new methods and medicines will find themselves at a disadvantage. Teachers who do not continue to widen their know-how by employing new techniques along with increase of knowledge are less and less effective with their students. Nature demands growth, and success demands progress.

In this weekend's Second Reading, St. Paul speaks to us of "learning Christ." That supposes that the Christian is in the school of the Master, and always has more to learn from the great mystery of our salvation: Christ and his work of love for humankind. If responsible people are always trying to improve their know-how in their respective line of work, if musicians practice interminably to become masters in their field, if athletes keep up a rigid schedule to outdo others in sports, then the Christian must realize that growth in knowledge of Christ and advancement in the faith are not only possible but a real necessity, if the Christ-life is to blossom forth in full maturity.

Many are satisfied with the initial knowledge of the faith acquired in school days and never advance toward a deeper insight and appreciation of the wonderful plan of God's love for humankind in his Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence their growth in the Christ life is stunted, remaining practically at the same level for years. The Christian religion means more than a routine fulfillment of duties and a mere external practice of various devotions and acts of piety. The Christian religion is dynamic, and it purports to lead humankind deeper and deeper into Christ's Paschal Mystery in order to transform him or her more fully each day into the one ideal that is Christ himself. Do all Christians take their calling seriously? How many think of the Church only in the three main events of life: Christian baptism, marriage and burial preparations? Even those who are faithful to Sunday duties often stop there, thinking they have done enough for religion for the week. Can we honestly say they are learning Christ and getting to better appreciate the stupendous mystery of his love, the way the Father in heaven expects of his children? Our Christian faith is intended by God to penetrate all the phases of our life: work, recreation, family affairs, business interests. God is very interested in every one of our doings and Christ is very near in all of them. As Christians who have put on Christ, we are to excel in all we do. Christ's ideas are to clothe our own, Christ's sentiments are meant to manifest themselves in our words and actions, not only now and then but each day, toward the members of our family, our employees and helpers, our employers and business associates, and all with whom we deal.

Gradually, when the inner person is transformed, life itself is vitalized, and we make steady progress toward that fulfillment which alone can satisfy the human heart.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**August 3**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**August 4**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**August 5**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 6**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 7**	**4:30PM**
Josephine (Josie) Agosta †		Stella Noe
Sun.	**August 8**	**9:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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