Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 20, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

How often those who are exceedingly rich find life extremely boring, despite the fact that they have everything that money can buy. Some years ago, a famous inventor in one of the Eastern United States was found dead in his bed. He had built up a great business empire and had become a multi-millionaire. They found the revolver next to him and a note that read: “My work is done. Why wait?”: Of what use to him was all his wealth, the great name, the world-wide prestige?

Is not then the attitude of the Lord toward riches unexpectedly harsh. In themselves, riches are not evil. Whatever is in the universe is good, coming as it does from the creative hand of God. Temporal goods were often allotted to mankind to assist him in his or her tiresome journey toward the spiritual an eternal. God enriches those he loved. Yet his general attitude toward riches was negative.

“Woe to you rich” Jesus said, “for your consolation is now.” (Luke 6:24). And again: “No man can serve two masters; you cannot serve God and money.” (Matthew 6:24) the simple reason is, riches channel a person's interests to the temporal and the material, whereas mankind's foremost goal is spiritual and eternal. In the parable of the seed fallen among thorns, the love of money, it is that chokes the good seed and stifles all higher aspirations. Riches often have the effect of making a person selfish and greedy. This is brought out in a very telling manner in the parable of the rich farmer who had a bumper crop. His only thought is how to accumulate more wealth, with no concern at all for his fellowmen, but the Lord called him to judgment that very night, and what good was all his wealth to him. It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Some have thought that the eye of the needle was a low gate leading into Jerusalem, and a camel would be able to pass through it only with great difficulty. But there is no such gate with that name. Jesus' words are to be taken literally. One who has his or her heart set only on the goods of this world is aiming in the wrong direction, and it does not lead to the kingdom of heaven. Moreover, all the money in the world will not be able to purchase entrance into that kingdom. Salvation is God's gift to mankind, and no one relying on his or her riches will attain it.

Jesus invited the rich man in the gospel to total renunciation in order to obtain the Supreme God which is God himself. But the man preferred his worldly goods. What will our response be if Christ invites us in the same manner? Or what is our response if his Spirit deep within our hearts inspires us to use the good of this world to help the poor and the needy, to see to it that our own employees get a decent wage for their own situation, and to champion the cause of those who are oppressed? Our material goods we must leave them behind when we die, but the good use we make of them will last forever.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 22**	**11:00AM**
Elizabeth Cordova †		Marcella de Leon
Wed.	**October 23**	**11:00AM**
Charles Roth (birthday)		Jhing
Thur.	**October 24**	**11:00AM**
Oliver Bañaga (birthday)		Mom
Fri.	**October 25**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**October 26**	**4:30PM**
Nicolas† & Virginia Cachaper		Alma & Jong
Sun.	**October 27**	**9:00AM**
Alex & Beverly Delsid†		Andrea & Ebony
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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