Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 8, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

How often it happens that a person of limited means reaches heights of eminence and success because of hard work and determination, almost in spite of poverty that dogs his or her steps at every turn. One could mention St. John of the Cross and St. Pius the Tenth, both of whom came from families that felt very much the pinch of poverty. Yet booth reached the summits, as did many other poor boys or girls upon whom God's favor fell. A little orphan boy in China many years ago was taken in by missionaries, converted to the faith, became a seminarian and was ordained a priest, became a bishop and finally was chosen as the first Cardinal of China, his Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Tien. God can bring about such marvels.

Jesus loved all. There was no partiality in his dealing with people. No single instance in the gospels can be found where Jesus caters to the rich because they are instance rich. He enjoyed, at times, the friendship of persons of means, such as Lazarus, Martha, Mary, and Joseph of Arimathea. He accepted invitations, but their wealth never blurred his judgments, as can be seen by his unmasking their hypocrisy on just such an occasion. He even gently chided Martha for an elaborate preparation of a meal an occasion when it was not at all necessary. To the young man who stated he would follow Christ wherever he went, Jesus explained that he had nowhere to lay his head, indicating what awaited those who were his close disciples. In his first sermon he quoted the prophet saying that he was sent to bring glad tidings to the poor. When choosing the Twelve who would be with him always, he picked the ordinary working man, such as such as fishermen, tax-collector and the like. He was at home with the common laborer, having been one himself. His had always been a simple peasant's home, a day -laborer's menu, a carpenter's work-bench. By his own choice he belonged to those whose social condition was not of the wealthy. He never made any attempt to excuse or disguise this fact. He told his followers to eat what was put before them, and undoubtedly, he practiced what he preached. Coarse barley bread and dried fish he shared with the rest, and there is never mention of any complaint concerning food, clothing or shelter. Nor do you find him exacting a remuneration for his many healing and other miracles, or asking a salary for his continued instructions. He called the poor in spirit blessed, for their aims were on the higher blessings of God's reign.

Wealth may afford comfort and ease, but the Lord's words and example ought to make everyone wary of putting one's trust in earthly possessions. The real treasures of a person are within. If, on the contrary, the inch of poverty is felt because of the constantly increasing food prices, high cost of living, and similar demands, we can we can feel more at home with Christ "who made himself poor though he was rich, so that we might become rich by his poverty." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 10**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**September 11**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**September 12**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**September 13**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**September 14**	**4:30PM**
Alice Littleton †		Family
Sun.	**September 15**	**9:00AM**
Bill Airoldi†		The Hoffmans
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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