Divine Mercy Sunday — April 11, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

"PEACE" is the English translation of the Hebrew "shalom", and is a word rich in content. It is the usual greeting in both Old and New Testaments, but it is replete with sacred overtones. Like the many facets of a precious jewel, it has a variety of related meanings, but in the fullest sense it designates that state of perfect well-being which God himself possesses. He or she who possesses his peace is in communion with God. Jesus brought about this precious gift through his Paschal Mystery, and it contains the sum-total of messianic blessings.

Jesus before his Passion promised this peace to his disciples, telling them that no one in the world, not even the great ones, could bring it about, for he alone could do so. Indeed, the peace that Christ imparts is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and it is beyond all understanding. In order to part this gift to his loved ones, the Savior was willing to go through the excruciating sufferings of his passion and death.

How eager the Risen Savior breaks in upon the disciples gathered in the upper room. It seems he can hardly wait till they are all together and comes to them even though Thomas is not yet there. "Peace be with you" he says to them and repeats it, showing them simultaneously the price of that peace, his wounded hands and side. His sudden appearance in their midst though the doors were locked does not frighten them in the least but fills them all with joy. "The Lord is truly risen" they kept telling each other as they gaze upon him speechless with wonder. Jesus knew well the importance of that hour. He had accomplished their reconciliation and that of all humankind with the Father. The peace announced by the angels in Bethlehem is now a reality. What he promised in the upper room he will now impart. Humankind can now live in communion with his God, for he has regained his friendship through Jesus his Son. What a cause for joy and gratitude!

Now the gigantic task of bringing all of humanity to God can begin. It will be the work of Christ's disciples. He extends to them his own divine mission, the very mission which the Father had given him. He sends them forth to the uttermost parts of the world to bring the Glad Tidings of humankind's reconciliation with God and the precious gift of peace that surpasses all understanding. But in order that they can accomplish that herculean task, he invests them with his Holy Spirit of power, empowering them to be his instruments in reconciling humankind to God.

The treasure of our faith ought not be buried within, but eagerly shared with others. What can we do by word or deed, by writing or any of the mass media to make known the Paschal Mystery of Christ and all its benefits for humanity? Will we daily be all taken up with passing events, or give time and attention also to those of eternal value? Will our living faith make itself felt by others?

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.	**April 13**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**April 14**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**April 15**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**April 16**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**April 17**	**4:30PM**
Sid† & Trudi Jensen		Family
Sun.	**April 18**	**9:00AM**
Bill Duff †		Bruce & Gina
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††