Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Times — October 2, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

There are many fascinating characters in the Bible, people like Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and so on through a long list. One rather obscure prophet, with the unusual name of Habakkuk, is a man I would like to have met. Perhaps I am interested in him because there have been times when I have wished for a courage like his to stand before God and complain, "How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!"

In a sense, Habakkuk represents all of us during these times when everything seems to be going wrong, when perhaps we feel that God is indeed in heaven but far distant from our very real, very troubled world. Frankly, I would not dare to speak to God as Habakkuk did, with the courage to complain to God and even the audacity to suggest that God should wake up and look to his business of governing the world and directing the affairs of humankind. We are fortunate that Habakkuk spoke to God as he did, reflecting a concern that is or can be ours, because through him we have a response from God. Apparently, God was not displeased with his prophet, since he answered him in gentle understanding tones. In effect God said: "Be patient with me. I have a plan. What I ask of you is faith, and because of your faith you will live.

The faith God asked is not the kind we ordinarily think of, a mere belief that there is a God. Obviously Habakkuk believed in God; otherwise he would not have called upon him. What God meant by faith is a loyalty and trust, a steadfastness especially in the face of difficulties. Such faith is a combination of love and confidence. Perhaps the best single word in English for this quality is "faithfulness."

It is easy to be faithful to God when everything is going well for us, just as it is easy to be loving and kind to pleasant, cooperative people. God is asking that we be faithful to him,especially during our most turbulent and frustrating moments. Like the apostles, we should turn to Jesus and pray especially during Mass. "Lord, increase our faith." The apostles, whom Jesus had sent forth to preach, were apparently overwhelmed by the demands of their apostolic work and dismayed by the people's lack of response. At that time the apostles did not know that Jesus himself, during the hours of his passion, would be in a situation which would tax the limits of even his endurance. They could not foresee that on the cross, Jesus the man would feel abandoned by his Father and would remain nonetheless faithful as he cried out in a dying gasp: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46). And though he died, Jesus was raised to the fullness of life because of his faithfulness.

In the Mass, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are invited to thank God not only for the salvation which has come to us through the death and resurrection of his Son, but also for the example he has given.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 4**	**11:00AM**
Edna Angeles Dayao†		Ludivina Chaves
Wed.	**October 5**	**11:00AM**
Andex Laygo (healing)		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**October 6**	**11:00PM**
Benjamin Peralta †		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**October 7**	**11:00AM**
Ernesto Llamas † (death anniversary)		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**October 8**	**4:30PM**
Anne & Caesar Airoldi †		Your Children
Sun.	**October 9**	**9:00AM**
Elliot Combong (		Mom & Dad
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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