Divine Mercy Sunday — April 19, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Gibbon, the famous historian who wrote "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" in several volumes, never finished the volume which told of the origin and spread of Christianity. When asked why he never wrote that part of the monumental work, he said: "I cannot explain how twelve uneducated men could change the face of the pagan Roman Empire with their religion. Gibbon was an unbeliever. He did not realize that the Christian Church is the work of God.

There is no doubt about it. Christ has conferred on His ambassadors, tremendous powers. The self-same mission that He received from His heavenly Father, God of heaven and earth, He has given to them. The Father sent His Son to lift up humankind, to heal his wounds, to sacrifice Himself for His fellowmen and women, to feed him with His Body and Blood. He had the power to forgive sins, as he so clearly showed the Scribes and the Pharisees when He said to them: "Which is less trouble to say: your sins are forgiven, or stand up and walk? To help you realize that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins, He then said to the paralyzed man: Stand up! Roll up your mat and go home." (Matthew 8:5ff.)

These same powers Christ conferred on those who represent Him after His ascension into heaven. There is no other explanation of the rapid spread of Christianity in early centuries than the fact that it is the work of God Himself, and that Christ His Son lives on in the Church, establishing by His Spirit the reign of God everywhere. Before He ascended into heaven. He told them to go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.

Look how often people have endeavored to destroy the Church in this land or that: Pagan Rome with its persecutions by the emperors, North Africa and Europe with heresy, merry England under Henry and Elisabeth, Germany under Bismarck, China and Russia in their communistic ideology But let us not forget that they are knocking against the cornerstone, and Jesus warned all of humankind that "the man who falls on that stone will be smashed to pieces; it will make dust of anyone on whom it falls." Meantime the chosen ones of Christ continue their sacred mission. By the words of consecration, they actualize the sacrificial presence of Christ on the altar, thus proclaiming His death until He comes. They raise their hands to forgive sins, many and manifold, from one end of the earth to the other, from one end of the human stratum to the other. They preach the Word of God in season and out of season, thus continuing to implant the reign of God where it is not yet implanted and strengthen it where it needs bolstering.

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 21**	**N/A**
Frances Aquino † (death anniversary 1 yr)		Bob & Lydia
Wed.	**April 22**	**N/A**
Nicodemes Cava †		Imelda
Thur.	**April 23**	**N/A**
Nemesino S Mariano †		Mariano Family
Fri.	**April 24**	**N/A**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**April 25**	**N/A**
David Botta †		Alice Mahoney
Sun.	**April 26**	**N/A**
Romeo Ritto †		Imelda Ritto
Port Costa		**N/A**
Mahoney Family		Alice Marshall

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