Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 15, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

We are offered an exceptionally rich fare at the table of the Word this weekend. The mystery of the kingdom of God is disclosed as itself being a banquet. God's love excludes no one from the enjoyment prepared for all human beings.

As in the case with all parables, the story which is the gospel for this weekend has but one point. It is that the king sees the banquet hall filled with guests. Doubtless, the story is not about an individual king nor about the kind of beef he served at table. No, it is about human dynamics, such as preparing a wedding banquet, inviting guests to the feast, refusal by preferred guests, and finally inviting any and every one so that the party may go on.

In all of this, what does the parable tell us about God? God is like the great king who prepared a banquet for the wedding of his son. The wedding is of course, the union of God with humankind in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The banquet is an apt symbol of the fulfillment which comes to human beings by reason of their share in that ineffable union. The mystery expands when we see the invited guests refuse to come to the banquet. Somehow refusal on the part of preferred guests is related to the further call of any and every one from the highways and byways to be guests of the king. This astounding turn of events illustrates just how wonderful God's deed can be.

To what does the parable call us who hear it? What will accepting the invitation cost us? To share a meal with anyone presumes a commitment to the person whose guests we are. It includes subscribing to the meaning of the occasion being celebrated. For us to say yes to God's invitation this Sunday means being willing again to put on the mind of Christ and to follow his mode of behavior. This may entail having our usual set of values turned upside down in some area of our lives where we do not expect it. In some area it will involve a new dying in order to enjoy fuller life in the power of Christ.

One aspect of our Judeo-Christian experience is the sense of continuity. This is part of keeping memorial. Within this experience connections are made spontaneously. On a day like this Sunday, it is quite natural for us to sense that Jesus is our food, the Living Bread come down from heaven. The cup of pure choice wine becomes the cup of the new and everlasting covenant in his blood. Once again, the act of making such connections contains a hidden power to move hearts to be more fully open to the word of God.

The reality of having our ordinary life become part of the glory of God calls us to the eschatological banquet. This term stands for the end time to which we look during these final weeks of the church year. We mention the final coming of Christ specifically in the Eucharistic prayer, as we anticipate the end "when he comes again."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 17**	**11:00AM**
Grace Pura †		Pena Family
Wed.	**October 18**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**October 19**	**11:00AM**
Marilou Padilla (healing)		Gina
Fri.	**October 20**	**11:00AM**
Tony Scalzo †		Lee Montesano
Sat.	**October 21**	**4:30PM**
John Gallo †		Gallo Family
Sun.	**October 22**	**9:00AM**
Lena McCrossen †		Bill & Diane
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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