Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 19, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Many a person has one sole ambition: to make a large amount of money so as to live the rest of his or her life comfortably and bequeath to his or her children a splendid inheritance. Others make every effort to reach top government positions or in their business firms. Still others leave nothing unturned to be successful in any field. All their energy goes into that one ambition.

Our Blessed Lord had also one sole ambition: to do the will of his heavenly Father in every respect and thus win for all of humankind who would receive him as the Supreme Gift of God, the Holy Spirit of Divine Love. All his energy went in that direction. He knew only too well that the Gift of the Spirit would enable humankind to perfect his or her human personality in unsurmised dimensions, and to live his or her divine fellowship fully with splendor for an eternity. But Jesus also knew that it would cost him the privations of early childhood, the hard labor for decades at the carpenter's bench, the strenuous journey preaching the word of God and healing all manner of diseases, and finally the horrible sufferings of the Cross. Yet, he attained his ambition. He never swerved from that sole ambition of seeing the Father's will in everything that happened to him and every person who was placed over him, and he carried out the Father's plan to its minutest detail. Neither setbacks nor opposition for maltreatment nor crucifixion deterred him. He was submissive to all of it, submissive to everyone and everything. He emptied himself and became the slave, the last of all.

This weekend's Gospel spells out ambition in clear terms: To be considered first in line, to dominate the rest, to rule their minds and wills, to be held in esteem by all the rest. What a contrast this weekend's Gospel gives us: to utter submission of Jesus to the last place, and the ambition of the apostles to the first place among their equals! It is the evil pride that shows itself sooner or later in every human being. Children will fight to have the leading role in a play. Men or women are jealous if one of their equals obtains a prominent position. And there are people who at times refuse to cooperate if they are not the head of the organization. Julius Caesar preferred to be first in any small town than second in Rome. And Babylon's King, the veritable image of Satan, declared: "I will set my throne above the stars of God. I will ascend the top of the clouds. I will be like the High" (Isaiah 14:13f). Even the chosen friends of Jesus were not free from pride and ambition.

That is why Jesus placed a child in their midst. A child humbly obeys without questioning, and is content to be last of all. A child does not hanker after position, honor, rank, protocol, but is content to be led. A child takes it for granted that others are over it to come, and, to guide and instruct. A child is dependent. This is the spirit that Jesus tries to inculcate and he gives the best example possible of such childlike attitude. "The Son of man has come not to be served but to serve and give his life in ransom for the many" (Mark 10:45).

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. September 21 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Wed. September 22 11:00AM
Living Memorial

Thur. September 23 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Fri. September 24 11:00AM
Special Intentions

Sat. September 25 4:30PM
John Heuser Sr. † Trudi
& John Heuser III †

Sun. September 26 9:00AM
Eilah Lolo & Lola
(birthday)

Port Costa 11:00AM
People of the Parish

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