

# Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024

## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In the early years of baseball, there weren't any reinforced concrete stadiums. There was only a grandstand with a board fence enclosing the outfield. Sometimes the board fence had a knothole in it. Small boys would flock around it to get a free glimpse of the game. A knothole didn't offer a good view of the game, but it was good enough to give an idea of what was going on. Some ball park fences had several knotholes. There would be one in left field, one in center field and another in the right field. By moving from one to the other, you could get different views of the game.

The parables of Jesus are a lot like knotholes in a ball park fence. They give you a glimpse of God's kingdom. Parables don't give you a good view of it, but it's good enough to give you an idea of what the kingdom is like. Take the fourth chapter of St. Mark's Gospel. It contains three different parables about God's kingdom. By moving from one to another, you can get three different views of the kingdom. Interestingly, all three parables are about seeds.

The first parable talks about a farmer who planted seed. Some were planted in good soil, some in bad soil. Only the seed in the good soil bore fruit. The second parable which is read in the Gospel this weekend tells how seed grows beneath the soil without the farmer knowing how. It's a mystery to him. The third parable, which is also read in this weekend's Gospel contrasts the tiny seed to the large beautiful plant that grows from it. The first parable reveals that the kingdom grows in or heart in a marvelous, mysterious way, without our knowing how. The third parable reveals that the tiny seed of the kingdom in our heart will eventually grow into something beautiful.

Practically, what does all this mean for us? It means two things. First it means we must trust God. He planted the seed of his kingdom inside us. He understands what's happening in our heart, even if we don't. Second, we need to be patient. Even though God's kingdom doesn't seem to be growing inside us – even though we don't seem to be getting holier – we shouldn't be discouraged. Rather, we should keep on cultivating the seed inside us, especially by praying and by receiving the sacraments.

We must trust God and be patient God is trying to grow something special in us – something beautiful, something infinitely more marvelous and complex. If

we trust God and remain patient, things will work out in God's own time and in God's own way. The day will come when God's kingdom will emerge from our heart and grow into something glorious, something we will thank God forever. So, the message in this weekend's readings come down to this. God planted the seed of his kingdom in our heart at baptism. Our job right now is to nurture it, trustfully and patiently, by praying and by receiving the sacraments.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

### Mass Intentions for the Week

<u>Mass mieniwns for the week</u>		
Tues.	June 18	11:00AM
Father's Day Novena		_
Wed.	June 19	11:00AM
Father's Day Novena		
Thur.	June 20	11:00AM
Father's Day Novena		
Fri.	June 21	11:00AM
Father's Day Novena		
Sat.	June 22	4:30PM
Father's Day Novena		
Sun.	June 23	9:00AM
Father's Day Novena		
Port Costa		11:00AM
Father's Day Novena		
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Sunday Collection - June 9th		
St Pose Cro	ekett	\$1 <i>6</i> 47

St. Rose, Crockett \$1647

St. Patrick Mission \$395

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the changing times!

Special Second collection this week for Catholic Communications.

#### Saints

In recognition of the saint names that our Confirmations candidates took, we thought we would get to know some fun facts about their selected saints.

This weekend's saint is St. Genesius.

In the year 303, Emperor Diocletian launched the last great Roman persecution against the Christian Church. Genesius used the persecution as an opportunity to write a comedy about Christianity, thinking it might attract the attention of the Emperor and increase his fame.



Genesius presented himself as a catechumen seeking Baptism. He was invited into a period of instruction in the faith, in order to learn the beliefs of the Christians. He was particularly taken by the idea of Baptism. But at the time, he had no plans to convert to the faith – it was all just a part of his plan to research new material to use for his comedy. A strange thing happened to

Genesius as he began to work on his play, which was to be a comedy on Baptism. As Genesius began teaching the other actors about Baptism, he began to believe, and a desire to be baptized grew within his heart.

The opening night of the play was a great success. During the play, the Holy Spirit touched Genesius. He was no longer acting. "You fools, I wish to die a Christian," Genesius said. When the other actors asked him why, he said, "All my life I have been a fugitive, and only today have I found God."

Everyone, especially Emperor Diocletian, laughed as Genesius spoke. Genesius, standing in a pulpit designed to look like the goddess Venus, began to preach to the audience. He told the crowd how he once hated Christians and enjoyed insulting them. He told the crowd how he deserted his own family as a child because they were Christians.

From there, Genesius addressed Diocletian, stating that he wrote the play to mock Christians, but had been converted on the spot during the course of the play, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Diocletian was furious and stopped the play, having the troupe arrested and beaten, while Genesius was condemned to torture. Through all of his sufferings, he continued to confess that Jesus was God. When this failed to break his spirit, Diocletian ordered Genesius be beheaded. His final words were, "Our Lord Jesus Christ is God and we shall have life in His name."

(https://issuu.com/catholicstewardship/docs/scm\_aug20\_digital/s/10808941)

#### Next Weekend's Mission Appeal

Next week, Fr. Illuri Irudaya Raj (Fr. Raj) will be visiting our parish the weekend of June 22-23, 2024 to share information about the ministry of the Diocese of Nellore, Andhra Pradesh State, South India, and to ask for your prayers and financial support for the mission work of Diocese in India. They are unable to fund essential pastoral and social work in their communities. Your donations support programs, such as religious education, seminary formation, rehabilitation centers for lepers, education and boarding facilities for all the deserved poor children, lay ministry training and to build vibrant faith communities. Please join us to hear the good work of the missionaries and the great faith of the people in the other part of the world. Your support of this appeal eases the struggle of this mission diocese. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal.

