Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — November 15, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

It affords genuine pleasure to see a family in which the various members pursue their individual calling with eagerness and zest, developing their own capacities and gifts as far as in them lies: one preparing for medicine, another a teaching career, a nurse's profession, commerce, media, agriculture, music and entertainment, engineering, culinary arts etc. Mother and father are justly proud when they observe that their children are developing in a healthy and mature manner, for they know that much depends on these years of earnest preparations. On the contrary, how grieved they are when one of the family turns out to be lazy and shiftless, unreliable and constantly dependent on parental care even in later years.

This weekend's parable takes the word "talent" in its original meaning of a sum of money, which various translations give as "silver coins or "pounds" or dollars. The owner of the money had in mind that his servants put his money to good use and thus increase his own possessions, according to the creativeness and ingenuity of each individual. Those who did so were well rewarded, but the lazy fellow who dug a hole and hid it away was rejected from his position, and the money which had been given him was taken away.

In today's parlance, the word "talent" has come to mean the gifts and capacities which each one possesses. In that applied sense, the lesson is also much to the point. All our gifts and "talents" are from the loving hand of the Creator. We are expected to use them well in this life, developing them for the good of the Kingdom, be it for the welfare of ourselves or of our fellowmen and women. Severe judgment will be meted out to the lazy and good for-nothing, who never bothers to develop the abilities he or she has in any line whatever, or who deliberately abuse those gifts. Rejection from God's household is the threat hanging over him or her. God gave humankind a mind in order to let it share his or her creative power. He gave humankind his or her senses so that they might enjoy what is good, and help create a better world. He does not want his or her gifts to be abused.

Not everyone recognizes the fact that these gifts and abilities come from the hand of the Creator. Yet it is the Creator who enables humankind to invent the marvelous instruments which flood the market today: for education, for transportation, for hospital needs, for business purposes, for recreation. God in his goodness is working in humankind, his masterpiece, to bring about continued marvels of our age. It is He who enlightens the mind to unravel the mysteries of his creation, so that humankind discovers more and more their value for life. Not to recognize the source of these gifts and abilities can lead to rank pride and vanity on humankind's part, as well as the presumption that he or she alone can do all things and there is no need of a God to care for him or her or to show him or her how.

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.	**November 17**	**N/A**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**November 18**	**N/A**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**November 19**	**N/A**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**November 20**	**N/A**
Joshua Arriola (thanksgiving)		
Sat.	**November 21**	**4:30PM**
Jim Dooley †		ICF #14
Sun.	**November 22**	**9:00AM**
People of the Parish		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Marcelina Morales †		Your children

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