From the Desk of Fr. Leo

One of the greatest longings each one of us feels is the desire for security. To look to the future and see old age coming inevitably, and to fear that perhaps there will be no security for that old age is indeed a frightening thought. It is not surprising that sooner or later we face the need of planning for the future, of trying to make sure that security will be ours, especially when we have passed the age of being able to hold a job and make a living. Advertisements for insurance, savings accounts and the like, all appeal to our deep instinct for security.

Jesus understood our yearning for security, and in this Sunday's parable he wished to put that yearning in proper perspective. The rich farmer of the parable could be growing wheat in Kansas or corn in Iowa. A bumper crop forces him to tear down his available barn and build even larger ones. With all his possessions snugly laid away, he congratulates himself on a job well done. He has security. He has proved himself to be a prudent organizer, a good planner, a man respected in the community. And yet God calls him a fool.

What did the farmer do wrong? There is no sign that he was dishonest or that he cheated anyone or deprived them of what was rightfully theirs. What then was his mistake? He was greedy. Just before telling the parable, Jesus warned, "Avoid greed in all its forms. A man may be wealthy, but his possessions do not guarantee him life." Greed leads a person to rely solely on material possessions for his or her security. It is the fault of the "self – made" person who thinks he or she holds his or her future in his or her own hands. He or she depends only on himself or herself for his or her security, and that leads to practical forgetfulness of God even though he or she may go to church regularly. He or she wants security in the future, but he or she does not look far enough into the future beyond the inevitable fact of death, to a security that only God can guarantee.

This kind of greed is not confined to the wealthy by any means. All of us can be guilty of it. Our society is such that it almost forces us to be preoccupied with the need for money and material possessions, no matter how we may fight its influence. The day-to-day struggle for survival in a competitive society can become all- absorbing. Certainly, we have to work and to save, but we are sadly mistaken if we think that possessions will give us the kind of security we really need. No matter how much money we have saved up, the time will come for God to say to us, "This very night your life shall be required of you." What of our security then?

Jesus wants us to respond to our instincts for security. He wants us to use it, however, to work for eternal life by becoming "rich in the sight of God." He wants us to stand before God and acknowledge that we are poor in the sense that every good thing comes from him, that without God we are spiritually bankrupt.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**August 2**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**August 3**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**August 4**	**11:00PM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 5**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**August 6**	**4:30PM**
Nicolas Cacheper †		Virginia
Sun.	**August 7**	**9:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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