Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 15, 2024

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Jozef Stalin who, lead communist Russia for many years was an altar-boy in his youth and later a seminarian. The story is told that at one time he received a well -deserved rebuke from his superior, but was unwilling to take the correction. He left the seminary. Would he have turned out the way he did, had he taken the correction humbly, and learned by it?

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is an old adage born of experience and proven again and again by fact. Today, parents are often reluctant to correct their children when they stand in need of correction, either because they are a victim of today's permissiveness or leniency or because they fear to lose the love and affection of their offspring. Teachers condone what ought not be condoned because they think they will lose the good will of their students. The Lord acted differently and he is the Master Guide.

It was the will of the heavenly Father to redeem humankind by the sufferings and death of his Son. In no better way could he manifest his great love. Jesus Crucified is the way he chose to prove to the world that he is a God of immense love, sacrificing his own Son, giving him up to such torments out of love for humanity. But the Apostles found a suffering Messiah repugnant, and a stumbling block to their preconceived notions of a glorious Messiah-Conqueror. Peter even took it upon himself to object what Jesus had just foretold about his passion and death. He remonstrated with Jesus, saying that such things would never happen to him! But the Lord sharply rebuked Peter. He called him by an undesirable name, namely Satan, the arch-enemy of Jesus. And this right after Peter had acknowledged him as Messiah King in the name of all others.

Another correction was dealt by Jesus to James and John, the sons of Zebedee, though they were very close to Jesus and had shared his social confidences. When the little group was proceeding toward Jerusalem they had to pass through the country of the Samaritans. Anyone who was a Jew and on his way to Jerusalem, the Jewish capital, was no friend of the Samaritans, and they prevented the disciples from passing through. James and John were highly indignant and asked the Lord to call down fire from heaven to destroy them. But Jesus turned toward them only to reprimand them. His was not the spirit of violence and destruction, but of mercy, understanding and forbearance.

In the Book of Proverbs, we read: "He who loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." (Proverbs 12:1). And again: "A wise son loves correction, but the senseless one heeds no rebuke." (Proverbs 13:1).

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 17**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**September 18**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**September 19**	**11:00AM**
Lena McCrossen† (birthday)		Gina
Fri.	**September 20**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Sat.	**September 21**	**4:30PM**
John Heuser Sr † John Jr, and Ken†		Trudi
Sun.	**September 22**	**9:00AM**
Lisa Ruggeri (birthday)		Gina
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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