Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 12, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Stalin who led 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 victims of today's permissiveness, or because they fear to lose the love and affection of their offspring. Teachers condone what ought not be condoned but needs to be corrected, 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 suffering 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 humankind. But the Apostles found a suffering Messiah repugnant, and a stumbling block to their pre-conceived notions of a glorious Messiah-Conqueror. St. 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 St. Peter. He called him by an undesirable name, namely Satan, the arch enemy of Jesus. And this just right after St. Peter acknowledged him as Messiah-King in the name of all the others. Jesus not only called St. Peter Satan, which meant that he is entirely averse to the Father's saving plan, sharing the very ideas of Satan himself, but he orders him out of his sight, plainly telling him that his thoughts were farthest from the thoughts of God. Jesus found it necessary to correct St. Peter's attitudes and views and correct them bluntly, sharply and publicly in front of all the others, knowing that such wrong ideas had to be corrected promptly if St. Peter was to be the leader and guide of others.

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). Our age of permissiveness does well to heed these admonitions of the word of God and learn again from the example of the Master. The purpose of letting the young find their way was to make them reliable persons who could stand on their own feet and make their own decisions.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 14**	**11:00AM**
Ma'am Aquilina Cruz †		Bob & Lydia
Wed.	**September 15**	**11:00AM**
Mary Lou Austria †		Olivia
Thur.	**September 16**	**11:00AM**
Aurora Fran †		Perlas Family
Fri.	**September 17**	**11:00AM**
Angelina Francisco (Peaceful birthday)		Bob & Lydia
Sat.	**September 18**	**4:30PM**
Alice Littleton †		Family
Sun.	**September 19**	**9:00AM**
Eliseo Villanueva (birthday)		Lily Militar
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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