Solemnity of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ June 19, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The 60's saw the violent death of three prominent Americans: John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year on the anniversary of their deaths, memorial services have been held throughout the country. These services all have had one thing in common: they have been sad and somber. The reason is that the death of each one of these men seemed so pointless. They were all cut off in the full flowering of manhood from a life of promise and purpose. For each of them, most of their life's work still lay before them when the moment of death came abruptly and without warning, to the shock, dismay and horrible surprise of their fellow Americans. No wonder then, that the yearly memorial services have been overclouded with sadness and sorrow.

How different was the death of Jesus? His death, rather than being pointless, was the most significant act that has ever taken place in the history of humankind. Nor was Jesus abruptly cut off from his life's work, despite his youth when he died. He had done all that he had come to do. In fact, the whole meaning of his life reached its climax in the moment of its end. Jesus had come principally as a Savior, to destroy death and sin by his own death on the cross. And because of his Resurrection from the dead we know that his death, far from being a defeat imposed by his enemies, was a glorious and happy victory.

Moreover, Jesus' death did not come without design on his part. His death was something that he freely accepted. Mere men, no matter how deep their hatred or how powerful their means, did not have the ability to put him to death. On several occasions his enemies had tried to kill him, but since the hour willed by the Father was not at hand, they were powerless.

On Holy Thursday, the night before he was to die, Jesus knew with certainty that he would soon be dead. He had waited and prepared well for this moment. During his public ministry, he had even given signs of what he would do. In this Sunday's Gospel episode, the feeding of the five thousand, was one of those signs. At the last Supper, thinking of his followers who would come after him, he took bread and wine and pronounced those words reminiscent of the creative words of God at the beginning of time itself, "This is my body....This is my blood." Then he spoke words rich in meaning for us: "Do this in memory of me."

Jesus had given to his apostles and to all of his followers for all time, his body and blood as a memorial of his triumphant death. We are ashamed of the death of the Kennedys and Dr. King. As Americans, we would wish that peoples of other nations might have been kept from the tragic truth. But not so with the death of Jesus. In our memorial service of the death of Jesus in the Mass, we proclaim it, we shout it out for his death is the good news of our salvation.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**June 21**	**11:00AM**
Sosal Dial†		Priscilla
Wed.	**June 22**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**June 23**	**11:00PM**
Gerardo Bernardino†		Bob & Lydia
Fri.	**June 24**	**11:00AM**
Christina Quiapo (Thanksgiving)		Mom & Dad
Sat.	**June 25**	**4:30PM**
Marvin Edwardes (Birthday)		Olivia
Sun.	**June 26**	**9:00AM**
Lawurence Leal†		Andrea Delsid
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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