Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 26, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Our Lord uses very severe words in this weekend's gospel toward those who mislead others so that they lose the faith and turn away from good morals. He depicts a violent tragic death as punishment deserved by such offenses: hanging a large rock or millstone around the neck of the offender and throwing him into the sea. Death is here the temporal punishment in question, carried out for the good of others. There is no mention here of eternal damnation. Jesus is in dead earnest, because simple people often have a deep faith, but it is not an educated faith, so they are quite easily led astray. The Good Shepherd goes out of his way to save even one of these little ones, like a lost sheep. He is understandingly angry at those who even cause the sheep to go astray.

How well the words of Jesus could be referred today to those educators and leaders of groups who deride the faith of the simple believers, or claim that the moral teachings of the Church are outdated and no longer applicable. These are the worldly wise who prefer to follow the norms of a neo-pagan world, and have no qualms of conscience in watering down serious sin, or in favoring premarital relations, divorce, contraception and abortion. People are confused because many so-called "teachers" are not upholding the faith, but belittle it, watering it down. They are a stumbling block to the youth in their lax interpretation of the moral law under the guise of progress and advanced thinking. How well the severe judgment of the Lord applies to them! Their bad example, manifested in their words and actions, lead astray many for whom the Lord suffered and died.

From time to time we ought to examine our hierarchy of values. What do we consider of greatest worth in life? Are we willing to let companionship jeopardize our eternity, evil literature separates us from our highest Good, shoddy business associates keep us from lasting association with Christ who alone can make us fully successful and happy? There is always a time for house cleaning. So, there ought to be a time also for spiritual house cleaning: cleaning up our values, our associations; getting rid of objectionable literature; books, pictures, taking a firm stand on ourselves to see if the path on which we tread leads to heaven or deviates to eternal frustration. In the matter of eternal life one cannot be two-faced. God is all knowing.

The severe punishment threatened by the Lord ought to stand as a constant warning and a strong incentive to give good example in all things so that by the light of our works, people are led to God.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 28**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**September 29**	**11:00AM**
Sienna Jackson		Olivia Austria
Thur.	**September 30**	**11:00AM**
Sean Murphy †		Morales/Gomez Families
Fri.	**October 1**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Mae & Ed
Sat.	**October 2**	**4:30PM**
Thanksgiving		Mae & Ed
Sun.	**October 3**	**9:00AM**
Miville Cristobal (birthday)		Lily Militar
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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