Fifth Sunday of Easter — May 2, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Those who keep bees are well aware that they work with marvelous industry and superb cooperation and unity, building up layer upon layer of beautiful honey-comb with its delicious content, as long as the Queen is in their midst. From the Queen the entire activity of the hive and its accomplishment is derived. Take away the Queen and in no time the entire hive disintegrates, the work of the bees comes to naught. Such is the importance of the central figure, the Queen.

Our Blessed Lord chose a remarkable image to illustrate the unique oneness of the believing community with himself, that of the vine and the branches. If the master himself had not drawn this image for us, no disciple on his own would have been so daring, because it describes in a certain sense an identity, and that is just what Jesus intended. The great mystery or secret plan of the Father is to unite all of humankind in the one Christ, sharing his Divine Sonship, his very personality, his holiness, his glory. What Jesus has by his own right; the Father wants his disciples to have participation (grace).

But it is only by remaining one with the vine that the branches can continuously obtain nutritious sap so necessary for life as well as for increase in growth, so that abundant fruit results. Apart from the vine, no branch can accomplish anything. It withers and is doomed, being cast away to be used as fuel for the fire. It is so necessary to be convinced of the necessity of relying entirely on our union with Christ to reach our destined goal that Jesus simply states: "Apart from me you can accomplish nothing". "Remain in me and I in you" he pleads. What an intimate communion of life and thought revealed in these words, marking a unique phenomenon, that of the Body-Person of Christ.

The father in heaven has the greatest personal interest in the growth of Christ, the vine and branches. The life-fulfillment of each member of Christ is most dear to him. In order that each one bear fruit to full capacity, he prunes and cleanses it from harmful or superficial growth, or, whatever hinders it from bearing fruit in good measure. Such "pruning" may entail trials of body and spirit, personal suffering or sharing the misfortunes of others. But the end intended by God is glorious. As the Father was glorified in his Son's sufferings, so he is likewise glorified that the branches of the vine bring forth much fruit through trials and sufferings. God is admirable in his saints. Their close union with Christ made their prayers so efficacious before God, that they obtained whatever they asked.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 4**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**May 5**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**May 6**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**May 7**	**11:00AM**
Louie & Susan Licad		Mom
Sat.	**May 8**	**4:30PM**
Ted Gallo†		Stella
	Mother's Day	
Sun.	**May 9**	**9:00AM**
Gloria Bañaga †		Bob & Lydia
	Mother's Day	
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		
	Mother's Day	

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