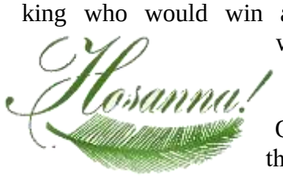
From the Desk of Fr. Leo

The death of Jesus has been referred to by some as a tragedy. In no sense was it such. In ancient Greek tragedy, a man was thought of as being on a wheel of fortune. Once he had risen to the top, the gods spun the wheel to bring the man back to the bottom. The tragic hero was hurled to destruction by an inexorable fate. As presented by William Shakespeare, tragedy was also the fall of a hero, but his fall was brought about through his own fault, because of a flaw in his character – which critics have come to call the tragic flaw. For example, Macbeth's tragic flaw was his "vaulting ambition," a fault cleverly manipulated by Lady Macbeth, and which led to his destruction.

Jesus was certainly a hero, but his death was only an apparent fall. Moreover, his death was brought on neither by an inexorable fate nor by any flaw in his character. Rather, it was the result of a supreme virtue, his loving obedience to his father. On Good Friday Jesus was in the eyes of men a failure, but in the eyes of God, he had completed a life of perfect success because of his loving obedience. The death of Jesus was only an apparent tragedy.

On Easter Sunday, God the Father in raising Jesus from the dead, manifested to the whole world the fact that the death of his Son was a great triumph. As we hear in the letter to the Philippians, "Because of this (that is his loving obedience unto death), God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name." It was precisely because of his obedient death that God the Father exalted Jesus. In other words, the triumph of Jesus came through his apparent tragedy. Through his death he rose to his throne in heaven as king.

In Christ's triumphant procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the people hailed him as king, but they did so for the wrong reason. They were enthusiastic in their shouts of praise because they thought his reign would be nationalistic, political and within the immediate future. They wanted a king who would win an earthly kingdom through war, not a king who would gain a heavenly kingdom through death. And so, on God Friday the inscription on the Cross, "This is the King of the Jews," was one of mockery, not praise.



In this weekend's liturgy, we hail Christ as or King but we must make sure that we do so for the right reason. He has not promised worldly peace that can be obtained from nationalistic security, but a spiritual peace which comes from imitating his loving obedience to God. He has proposed no political character that would ensure material prosperity, but a way of living that guarantees eternal happiness in heaven.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. April 12 11:00AM
NO MASS

Wed. April 11 11:00AM
Pax Lacsina† Lacsina Family

Thur. April 12 7:00PM
Holy Thursday
Regina Lemy Mom

Fri. April 13 12:00PM
Not full mass
Rosela Villanueva (birthday) Lily Militar

Sat. April 14 7:30PM
Easter Vigil
Clare Alvarado† Jensen Family

Sun. April 15 9:00AM
Easter Sunday
People of the Parish

Port Costa 11:00AM
People of the Parish

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