Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 24, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In combatting forest fires, another fire is purposely started counter wise, to counteract the actual forest fire. The second fire burns towards the first and thus the forest fire burns out, not finding anymore fresh material to enkindle. This is how the fire of love enkindled by our Lord Jesus Christ burns out the fire of passion, hatred and evil which exist in the world.

The spirit of evil promotes justice, hatred and war. Injustice, by defraud and oppression; hatred, by enmity and strife; war, by slaughter and total destruction. It tries with might and main to permeate every phase of society, even at times into the highest ranks. The goal is not for the good of humankind but on the contrary its eternal frustration. But this is often so cunningly done, that humankind lets itself be duped by its false promises.

Christ on the other hand came to dethrone Satan and overcame all evil in the world, establishing the reign of God, which is one of justice, love and peace; justice by making humankind realize the equality of all before God and the duty of dealing with one's fellowmen and women in all fairness (just wages, living conditions, retirement pensions and benefits etc.) love, by laying down the practice of love as the requisite of eternal salvation; peace, by imparting the peace which the world cannot give. Christ's goal for humankind is well-being in the present time and eternal happiness in the end-kingdom. By his very example, Jesus showed humankind the dignity of work, the virtue of patient suffering, and the glorious reward of doing God's will in all things.

Where do we stand? On fire with Christ's Spirit of love to oppose the evil spirit? Or does the evil spirit at times tempt the heart to walk a devious path; defrauding others rightful wages, continued coldness and animosity toward relatives or neighbors, jealousy and unbending pride, discrimination and lack of charity especially towards people of color or different culture than ours, or the fire of sensuality in its various forms? Then let us listen to the dynamic words of Jesus in his Gospel message. Let us ask him to cast out the evil spirit in our midst, and establish his reign fully within us and in the world.

With Christ we conquer all evil both within and around us. He alone can give the victory and true peace.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**January 26**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**January 27**	**N/A**
Special Intentions		
Thur.	**January 28**	**N/A**
Esther Sandrea Biscocho Yllana †		Gina & Vicky
Fri.	**January 29**	**N/A**
Robert Pallotta †		ICF #14
Sat.	**January 30**	**4:30PM**
Special Intentions		
Sun.	**January 31**	**9:00AM**
Cocce' Family †		Franca
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

† †††††††