Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 30, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In our society of electric and automatic doors, we do not think of doors as symbols of recognition. We seldom have a door slammed in our face, so we do not think of doors as thresholds of rejection. Rather we think about doors as territorial barriers against our fears of being robbed or otherwise violated

But what are doors that our Lord should say, "I am the door"? Doors stand between mine and yours. Doors offer protection and privacy. Doors establish boundary between the self and the other. Doors allow entry and offer escape. Doors signal hospitable greeting or blatant rejection.

Doors are the last barriers across which guards throw themselves, for the invading enemy will enter only through their death. The final value of a door lies in the flesh of those who defend its threshold. The final value of a door hinges on the will to defend and protect, to the death, the life within.

Imagine, you are an astronaut out in space, umbilically attached to the craft. Out before you, the earth spins in beauty. Your space mission is completed, and the air reserve for the "walk" is almost gone. You reach for the hatch lever. There is nothing there. The door you came out is gone. You scour and claw the bolted surfaces of the craft. The way in is gone and you are lost. Suddenly, from within, a new and unseen door is thrown open, and you are pulled through it to escape into life. The one who threw open the unseen entry becomes for you the gate of life.

As our door into the dominion of God, Jesus is our shepherd. Through Christ, we find our way home to God. By Christ we are gathered in despite our tendency to stray, despite our stupidities and despite false trap doors. Christ died before the enemies of God to protect the dominion of God. The pattern of God's will in Christ is cruciform. On the axis of the cross the stranger is called sibling, the threat is overcome forever, and life spreads out before us abundantly. Christ is guardian of the threshold of God's mercy for us. Christ is the one who bore the burden of us across that gate, carrying us inside the borders of the Trinity.

Christ as our door is the wide-flung hospitality of God, calling us home to the feast. Stand in the threshold in this assembly. Pray standing at the altar with open hands and look up to see the heavens opened. Gaze upon the baptismal waters to see the rivers that wash us through Christ and beach us at the home throne of God. Be mindful of God's approval and of the power God gives. These promises this day are for you, for your children and for all who are far off, for everyone whom Christ invites. Hear and heed the voice and be shepherded through.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 2**	**11:00AM**
Robert Banaga Sr.†		Lacsina Family
Wed.	**May 3**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Jong & Alma Arcega
Thur.	**May 4**	**11:00AM**
Gloria Banaga † & Frances Aquino †		Bob & Lydia
Fri.	**May 5**	**11:00AM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Sat.	**May 6**	**4:30PM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Sun.	**May 7**	**9:00AM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
Mother's Day Novena		

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