

# From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When the history of the Soviet Union is re-written, as it certainly will be soon, one man will loom large in its recent past. His name is Andrei Sakharov. He died almost thirty years ago. He was a most unlikely prophet, a small,quiet-spoken scholarly man,with none of the attributes usually associated with great public figures. For years, he confronted what must have been the greatest totalitarian regime the world has ever seen. He was a very distinguished scientist, in fact, he was one of Russia's greatest scientist of the past century. He could have had anything the Soviet system had to offer its favorite sons. Instead he chose to fight it, for the freedom and the civil rights of its citizens. For this he paid dearly, spending years in prison and labor camps in Siberia. But he never wavered.

Sakharov was a Russian Jew and in some striking ways bears comparison to that other Jew in Palestine two thousand years ago - St. John the Baptist. His too was a lone "voice crying in the wilderness". He spoke out courageously against the corruption of a powerful regime. He resisted all the blandishment his talents would have earned him. He could have worn fine clothes and lived in palaces by the standards of ordinary Russians in that harsh regime. And when they could not buy his silence, they locked him away. He was in prison when the world first heard of him. From there, his message of dissent escaped, to make disciples in Russia and abroad. He was no "reed swaying in the breeze". His heroic dissent was a contagion which his captors were powerless to contain. Eventually, yielding to world opinion – he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize while in prison - they were forced to release him. His health was irretrievably broken. Nevertheless, he continued his crusade. The seed he had sown in the wilderness so many years before was coming to harvest. Then almost within sight of the promised land, he died. Had he lived another few months he might have been, like a Lech Walesa, or a Vaclav Havel, elected President of Russia. But he didn't. Perhaps history will be all the kinder to him because of that.

As Christians, we should cherish our dissidents. So often, today's dissidents are tomorrow's heroes. Recognition, if it comes to all, comes posthumously. They belong in the tradition of St. John the Baptist, whom Christ praised so warmly in this weekend's gospel. Melito of Sardis in the second century wrote:

If you wish to see the mystery of the Lord, it is he who endures many things:

It is he who was Abel murdered, and in Isaac bound, and in Jacob exiled,

And in Joseph sold, and in Moses exposed, and in the lamb slain,

And in the prophets dishonored.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

11:00AM

### Mass Intentions for the Week

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Tues.	December 17	11:00AM
Thanksgiving		Lacsina Family
Wed.	December 18	11:00AM
Living Memorial		
Thur.	December 19	11:00AM
Daniel Hernandez †		Bernas Family
Fri.	December 20	11:00AM
Arturo Balagot		Arthur Balagot
Sat.	December 21	4:30PM
Mark Meagher †		Littleton-Jensen
		Families
Sun.	December 22	9:00AM
Gloria Balagot		Arthur Balagot

People of the Parish

**Port Costa** 



#### Sunday Collection -December 8th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$2410
Religious retirement	\$ 305
St. Patrick Mission	\$488
Religious retirement	\$90

Thank you again to all who support our Parish! We know how generous you have been in the



This year St. Rose would like to support Consider the Homeless (CTH), a grass-roots organization in Berkeley that reaches out to men and women living out on the streets by providing them with food and clothing. One item that is always in need are thick warm socks. If you are able to help support CTH in their effort to those in need, there is a box located in the vestibule of the church where you can drop off your donation of warm men's and women's socks.

#### Poinsettias & Christmas Decorations



The poinsettias that decorate our Church during the Christmas season are in honor of our departed loved ones. Envelopes to add the memory of your loved one to the altar are in the vestibule. The donation for

each name is \$10.

This weekend, we will also be having a special second collection to help support all the beautiful Christmas decorations that add to our Advent and Christmas liturgies. Environment truly enriches our experience.



The toys at the Christmas Eve Children's Mass went so well last year, that Father Leo would like to make it a tradition. He is hoping that parishioners might be willing to donate a few small toys for the children who attend the Children's Mass to receive. Please let the office know if you would like to participate, 510-787-2052.

## November Financial Overview

#### St. Rose Expense:

Expense:	
Priest Salary	\$2660.91
Secretary Wages	\$1891.61
Priest Food Reimbursement	\$427.36
Health Insurance	\$1289.48
PG&E Church/Rectory	\$837.86
PG&E CCD	\$61.35
Comcast	\$293.63
Garbage	\$338.54
EBMUD church	\$578.82
EBMUD CCD building	\$70.96
EDD	\$134.49
IRS	\$1464.73
Liability	\$1925.45
Bookkeeping	\$400.00
Church cleaning	\$340.00
Rectory Cleaning	\$260.00
Envelope service	\$135.04
Office Supplies	\$129.88
Liturgical calendars/Envelopes	\$172.11
Liturgical books	\$31.07
Copier	\$61.24
Mariachi final payment	\$900.00
Total	<u>\$14,404.53</u>
Income:	<u> </u>
Sunday's Plate	\$7061.00
Holy Days (All Souls/Saints, Thanksgiving)	
Guadalupe Collection	\$310.00
Maintenance	\$443.00
CCD Envelope	\$205.00
Facility Use	\$650.00
Sacramental Service	\$300.00
Fundraising (Guadalupe)	\$662.00
Christmas Market	\$2575.00
CCD Tuition	\$60.00
Total	\$15,861.00
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St. Datrial Mission	
St. Patrick Mission	
Expense: Total:	¢0 00
Income:	\$0.00
Sundays Plate	\$960.00
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Holy Days Maintenance	\$60.00 \$67.00
Initial offering	\$07.00
Guadalupe	\$20.00
Total	\$30.00 <b>\$1,137.00</b>
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