Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 6, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Nowadays, television frequently re-runs old Hollywood films, sometimes in black and white. And strangely enough, there seems to be a fairly sizeable audience for them among the young. Whenever Hollywood chose a Catholic theme, and that was not often, it seemed to be particularly fascinated by the practice of confession. The relationship between the penitent in confession and the priest has always intrigued non-Catholics, and nothing more so than what is called the "seal of confession" . A priest may never "break the seal of confession'; that is, he may never reveal what he has been told in confession,even to save his own life. His was the stuff that thrillers were made from. Murderers were believed to have revealed their crimes to a priest in confession, who had to carry this terrible secret, forbidden ever to reveal it. Even Catholics believed, when I was a young priest, that all priests were bearers of such secrets. I think it largely accounted for the mystique attached to priests then. Now I wonder what the young, Catholic or not, make of such films. Most young Catholics who are not very familiar with confession, have never heard of the seal of confession.

When I was young, confession loomed very large in our lives. Every Saturday, at least up to my early teens, I was ordered to go to confession, and was often asked that evening, usually by my mother or grandmother, "was I at confession?" We all know then about the seal of confession. Priests then were distinguished between those who were approachable and those who seemed to take personal offense at our little peccadilloes. We didn't know which to fear most, the wrath of God or of the priest. Sin, mortal and venial, dominated religion. Occasions of sin abounded. For some, confession itself was one. When the change came, it came none too soon and I for one felt sad for the demise of those sin full times.

But there is a profit and loss in all change. Nobody today, who reads a newspaper or watches a television news, can be unaware that sin is alive and well, and thriving as never before. They chronicle day after day "man's inhumanity to man" ranging from atrocities in Ukraine to massacres in Gaza. But sin is never mentioned. They speak of crimes against humanity or human rights violations. The sense of sin is dead or well on the way toward extinction.

God and sin, good and evil, are reverse sides of the same coin. One does not exist without the other. Those who have lost their sense of sin may well be on the way to losing their sense of God as well. The very first step we take towards God is a step away from sin. Like the Prodigal Son we begin our return to the Father with a recognition of our sinfulness: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**July 8**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Wed.	**July 9**	**11:00AM**
Fatima Ubalde-Malabuyo (health)		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**July 10**	**11:00AM**
Stan & Rosina Austria †		Olivia & Marvin
Fri.	**July 11**	**11:00AM**
Gloria Chan †		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**July 12**	**4:30PM**
Theresa Marie (birthday)		Mom & Dad
Sun.	**July 13**	**9:00AM**
William Michael Banaban †		Chris & Evelyn
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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