Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 21, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

At this time of the year major league baseball teams are intent on the pennant and the World Series. In particular the teams which are leading their divisions are at a point where they are eager to trade for that one player who, they think, is just what they need to field a team which can finish first. They are willing to undergo considerable expense, either in trades or salary, to get that player. They take the kind of initiative which Jesus commends today in the rich man's manager.

The Gospel this Sunday seems to suggest that Jesus approves dishonesty on the part of the manger. Some commentators observe that in all likelihood the manager was actually surrendering his commission and not cheating his boss, even though he had done a poor job of managing the boss's affairs. The boss gave no sign that he felt cheated. In fact, he commended his employee for being enterprising and for taking initiative.

Jesus' point was this: here is a man who wants to guarantee his future after he loses his job. He does not just sit around and moan about his fate, he does something to win favor with his boss's debtors. Jesus, in this Gospel, is not concerned about initiative in business any more than he is concerned about winning in major league baseball, but he does hope that we are concerned about our eternal salvation. More than that, he expects us to work as hard for spiritual values as some people do for financial gain.

This Sunday's Scriptures suggest two areas in which we should grow spiritually. They are prayer for those who are in need and justice for the poor. These two are closely linked. Prayer must lead to action, in particular the kind of action advocated by the prophet Amos, the prophet of social justice. He condemned those who through their unjust practices "trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land," and he admonished those whose only thought was financial gain.

Catholics ought always to be known as the people who take the side of the poor and who are generous in helping them. We are called to be the ones who "make friends for ourselves with the poor through our use of this world's goods." We are rightly expected to be the ones whom God can trust with "elusive wealth" because we know how to share it with others.

Above all, Catholics should show initiative and enterprise not only in praying for those in need but in reaching out to help them as best as we can. That will ensure that we have only one master, the great, good and generous Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 23**	**11:00AM**
Lisa Ruggeri (birthday)		Gina
Wed.	**September 24**	**11:00AM**
Rochelle Reyes		Mom & Dad
Thur.	**September 25**	**11:00AM**
Dario Ubalde †		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**September 26**	**11:00AM**
Antonia Santos †		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**September 27**	**4:30PM**
Eilah Jordin (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Sun.	**September 28**	**9:00AM**
Jorge, Tomasa, Jose † & Manuel		Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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