Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 28, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

During Masses, we often hear Jesus teach by means of parables. It can be helpful to ask ourselves, "Who am I in the parable?" This Sunday, Jesus tells a powerful story about the rich man who ignored the poor man at his doorstep. The rich man in the story has no name (he has been given the nickname "Dives", which is simply the Latin word for "rich.") Perhaps the lack of a name is a sign to us that we should ponder whether we are that man who was so complacent, so self-centered, so self-satisfied, that he did not even notice Lazarus at his gate, even though it was obvious that Lazarus was very ill, that he was covered with sores, and he was so hungry that he longed to eat the scraps which fell from the rich man's table.

But there is another way to see ourselves in this Sunday's parable. Before we too readily agree that we should be alert to see and care for all those who are in grave need, we may do well to recognize that all of us are Lazarus. To be more precise, we have been in his predicament in a spiritual if not a physical way.

Without our redemption by Christ we were even more worse off than Lazarus. We had no external sores but within we suffered the effects of sin. We lacked proper nourishment, not of mere scraps, but of the holy body and blood of the Lord. We were outside of the gate of the Church, and without Christ we would never have been able to cross the threshold of his house here on earth in order one day to enter his eternal home in the heavens.

God took pity on us. He sent us His Son as our great High Priest, our Mediator, who spanned the great abyss which Abraham told the rich man separated him from heaven. God has given us the faith to believe in the redemptive power of the death of Christ, and to embrace the truth of his resurrection, which is the source of our sure and firm hope. God has given us the wisdom to embrace the Eucharist as the sacred body of the Lord given up for us and his precious blood poured out for us.

Spirituality we were like Lazarus in his physical misery but we have became like him as he was lifted up by angels. We are blessed indeed that Jesus was as not as indifferent to us as Dives was to Lazarus. To make the application which Jesus intended in the parable, let us imagine Lazarus has come \back to earth. Do you think he would ever be as neglectful as was Dives, the rich man? Do you think he could ever ignore someone now who is in as a wretched condition as he was? Do you believe Lazarus would be anything other than a person of compassion who would do much more than give a beggar the scraps from his table?

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 30**	**11:00AM**
Sean Murphy †		Paul Morales
Wed.	**October 1**	**11:00AM**
Rochelle Reyes		Mom & Dad
Thur.	**October 2**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**October 3**	**11:00AM**
Lee Montesano †		Bill & Diane
Sat.	**October 4**	**4:30PM**
Estela DePaz & Family		Mom & Dad
Sun.	**October 5**	**9:00AM**
Lena Montesano †		Andrea Delsid
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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