Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 3, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Poverty breeds its own virtues. “Necessity is the mother of invention.” For the generation who grew up after the great depression of the thirties and the rationing of the Second World War, the great virtue was “waste not, want not.” Life then seemed to be one great salvage operation. There was a Jacobs biscuit tin on every mantle piece, where all sorts of bits and pieces were stored, like buttons and safety pins and pieces of string. It was a hold all wherein was stored the where with all to repair the wear and tear of daily life. Hoarding then was a virtuous necessity rather than a vice. Garbage disposal was no problem then. Most things had disintegrated long before they got that far. Even the ashes from the fire were used in the garden to kill slugs and worms in the rhubarb patch. Clothes were patched and woolen socks were darned out of recognition and when they could no longer be worn they began life anew as dusters and mops. Toilet paper had not been invented then; yesterday's newspapers served the purpose more than adequately. For those who came in the middle of families, most of their clothes were hand- me- downs. Sizes tended to be more appropriate rather than exact. Hems alternated between being “let down' or “turned up.”

After all this rigid training on economizing we were plunged into the consumer society and the era of the disposable. Cities and governments spend millions on the collection and disposal of waste. Plastic garbage bags figure on every shopping list. Television shows us harrowing pictures of children and families, foraging for survival in the public dumps of Rio de Janiero in Brazil and Manila in the Philippines. Whole shanty-towns have grown up round them. It is a vivid illustration of the ever widening gap between the “haves” and the “have nots”, between avarice and their destitution.

Governments and businesses vie with each other in promoting avarice in their citizens and costumers. It is one of the great civic virtues. The good of the economy depends upon it. The Lotto has become a national craze. And lest we might suffer from tweaks of conscience occasionally, we are re-assured by the list of hospitals and other charitable institutions who benefits from our avariciousness. But avarice is one of the seven deadly sins, because it spawns a host of other sins. No one who reads the newspaper can doubt that. The litany of political scandals make daily headlines.

St. Paul puts it bluntly in this weekend's Second Reading. “That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs to the earthly life.... and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshiping a false god.” “You can't take it with you.” was a common expression one time in Ireland about money. Which proves, if it proves nothing else, that the Irish knew their Gospel. “The hand that reaches out to God must be empty.”

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**August 5**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving -Essex		Mom & Dad
Wed.	**August 6**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving -Edgar Allan		Mom & Dad
Thur.	**August 7**	**11:00AM**
Special Intentions		
Fri.	**August 8**	**11:00AM**
Ender Ty (birthday)		Lolo & Lola
Sat.	**August 9**	**4:30PM**
Marleana Airoldi †		Bill & Diane
Sun.	**August 10**	**9:00AM**
Alvin Rubang		Mom Josie
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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