



From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Lake Genesareth is 300 meters below sea-level and flanked on both sides by high hills. Sudden storms are frequent. They are apt to spring up late in the afternoon. Experience told the disciples that to set out that hour was against their better judgment, but they obeyed the Master. In mid-waters the storm broke. We can imagine its fury if we remember that they are rowing across the lake, and the gale comes down from the North through the narrow Jordan valley-defile. Feverish bailing out is of little avail. The boat is about to be swamped. At the last moment they awaken the Master and cry out their dire peril. Jesus shows he is in full control of the sea, for by a word it is stilled. The disciples are struck with awe, but they are chided for their lack of faith and trust in him.

The scene symbolizes the Church with the Lord in its midst, even though he seems silent when the storm is greatest. But confidence and sheer faith in him who promised to be with his Church at all times even to the consummation, will bring it to the shores of eternity safe and sound. What the Lord reprimands is lack of faith in the darkest hours. Is he not Emmanuel?

What the Lord expects of us is staunch faith in his divine power and confidence in his immediate presence. "I am with you" should ring in our ears in every trial and tribulation. It will be necessary to remain calm and unperturbed, unshaken and unmoved. Then Jesus will not chide us for our lack of faith and lack of confidence in him as he did his own chosen disciples on the lake of Genesareth.

When Jesus chooses to rise and calm the storm, it will be over. He wants our faith to blossom forth to maturity so that our lives will not be founded on sentiment and emotion, but on the solid rock of faith in the indwelling Christ. The life of deep faith is the secret of the serenity of the saints. St. Therese of the Child Jesus illustrated this very well in her autobiography, when she said: "So few let the Lord Jesus sleep in their little boat, but immediately become worried and anxious when they do not experience God's favor". Yet, storms and trials are the sure signs of God's special love, else he would not let them come to his own Son and to all who strive to become more like him.

We are living in an imperfect world, and must be ready for any eventuality. Fear paralyzes, and will

prevent us from doing much good. Confidence and faith steels the spirit against losing heart, and brings us inner peace and tranquility.

Try as we may, we cannot avoid the storms of life that God intends to send us for our good. But faith in the indwelling Christ and prayerful confidence in Mary, Star of the Sea, will bring us safely through every storm.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows for Tues. (June 25, 11:00AM), Wed. (June 26, 11:00AM), Thur. (June 27, 11:00AM), Fri. (June 28, 11:00AM), Sat. (June 29, 4:30PM), Sun. (June 30, 9:00AM), and Port Costa (11:00AM).



Sunday Collection - June 16th

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows for St. Rose, Crockett (\$1832), Communications Collection (\$350), St. Patrick Mission (\$320), and Communications Collection (\$70).

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

Saints

In recognition of the saint names that our Confirmations candidates took, we thought we would get to know some fun facts about their selected saints.

This weekend's saint is St. Juan Diego.

Saint Juan Diego was born in 1474 as Cuauhtlatoatzin, a native to Mexico. He became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. When a group of 12 Franciscan missionaries arrived in Mexico in 1524, he and his wife, Maria Lucia, converted to Catholicism. Juan Diego was very committed to his new life and would walk long distances to receive religious instruction at the Franciscan mission station at Tlatelolco.



On December 9, 1531, Juan Diego was in a hurry to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. He was stopped by the beautiful sight of a radiant woman who introduced herself, in his native tongue, as the "ever-perfect holy Mary, who has the honor to be the mother of the true God. "Mary told Juan Diego she was the mother of all those who lived in his land and asked him to request the local bishop to build a chapel in her honor on Tepeyac Hill, the site of a former pagan temple.

When Juan Diego approached Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, he was told to give the Bishop time to reflect on the news. Juan Diego encountered the Virgin Mary a second time that day and told her he failed in granting her request. She instead he was the man she wanted, so Juan Diego returned to the Bishop the next day and repeated his request. The Bishop asked for proof the apparition was real. Juan Diego went straight to Tepeyac and encountered the Virgin Mary. After explaining to her what the Bishop asked, she agreed and told him she'd provide him with proof on the next day, December 11.

The next day, Juan Diego's uncle became very sick and he set to find a priest for his uncle. He was determined to get there quickly and didn't want to face the Virgin Mary. But the Virgin Mary intercepted him and asked

what was wrong. She looked at him and asked "No estoy yo aqui que soy tu madre?" (Am I not here, I who am your mother?) She promised him his uncle would be cured and asked him to climb to the hill and collect the flowers growing there. He obeyed and found many flowers blooming in December on the rocky land. He filled his tilma (cloak) with flowers and returned to Mary. The Virgin Mary arranged the flowers within his cloak and told him this would be the sign he is to present to the bishop. Once Juan Diego found the bishop, he opened his cloak and the bishop was presented with a miraculous imprinted image of the Virgin Mary on the flower-filled cloak. The bishop first kept Juan Diego's imprinted cloak in his private chapel, but then placed it on public display in the church built on Tepeyac Hill the next year.

During the revolutions in Mexico, at the beginning of the 20th century, nonbelievers attempted to destroy the image with an explosion. The altar's marble steps, the flower-holders, and basilica windows were all very damaged, but the pane of glass protecting the Image was not even cracked. Juan Diego's imprinted cloak has remained perfectly preserved from 1531 to present time. The "Basilica of Guadalupe" on Tepeyac Hill has become one of the world's most-visited Catholic shrines. St. Juan Diego was beatified on May 6, 1990 by Pope John Paul II and canonized on July 31, 2002. His feast day is celebrated on December 9 and he is the patron saint of Indigenous people.

(https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/our-lady-of-guadalupe-and-juan-diego-her-humble-messenger/)

This Weekend's Mission Appeal

This weekend the missionary priest from the Diocese of Nellore, India will be visiting us to ask for your prayers and financial support for the mission work of the Diocese in India. They are unable to fund essential pastoral work in their communities. Your donations support programs, such as religious education, seminary formation, rehabilitation centers for lepers, education and boarding facilities for all the deserved poor children, lay ministry training and to build vibrant faith communities. Fr. Raj will be with us to share information about the ministry of the Diocese of Nellore. Please join us to hear the good work of the missionaries and the great faith of the people in the other part of the world. Please be generous.