Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 31, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A simple but impressive ceremony occurs during the Good Friday liturgy. After the people have gathered, the priest and ministers prostrate themselves in silence before the altar. It is an awesome expression of humility before the Lord. The priest and ministers lying before the altar look like dead men. But then they stand to show that they have been raised from the death of sin to newness of life in Christ.

This ancient ritual is now expressed in a less dramatic way during the Penitential Rite of the Mass. Before God and each other we acknowledge our sinfulness and our needs for God"s mercy. In a sense we prostrate ourselves before the Lord. It is our way of fulfilling the instruction of Jesus, "When you are invited to a wedding party, go and sit in the lowest place." Jesus' instruction is in accord with the wisdom we hear from the Book of Sirach: "Conduct your affairs with humility. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."

Perhaps some of us are one-sided in this matter of humility. We may emphasize our sinfulness and our unworthiness to such an extreme that we seem to have forgotten what Christ has done for us in raising us up from sin. Christ calls us to true, not false humility. On the other hand, some of us may be a little smug, a little self-satisfied, like those who immediately took the highest places at the wedding feast. Christ calls us not to pride, but to humility.

Balance is needed when we think about whether we are worthy or unworthy. The liturgy gives us that balance by encouraging us on the one hand to admit our sinfulness and assuring us on the other hand that Christ has raised us up from death of sin.

Humble people must be careful not to suggest that Christ did not do a very good job in redeeming them. We must never think that we are still miserable creatures who are not, and can never be, pleasing to God.

In every celebration of the Mass, just before communion the priest declares, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the table of the Lamb." And indeed we respond "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come into my roof, but only say the words and my soul shall be healed." This supper is not the Last Supper. It is the great wedding supper of the Lord in heaven. Happy indeed are we, lowly though we are in ourselves, that through the Eucharist, we will be led to a high place in heaven where we will enjoy the greater wedding banquet of the Lamb of God.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**September 2**	**11:00AM**
Dionisio Junio Jr. †		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Wed.	**September 3**	**11:00AM**
Alfonso Combong Jr. †		Ed & Mae
Thur.	**September 4**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**September 5**	**11:00AM**
Lena (Lee) Montesano†		Family
Sat.	**September 6**	**4:30PM**
Dolores Albaugh †		John & June
Sun.	**September 7**	**9:00AM**
Myrna & Lawrence Leal †		Angela Nagy & Christi
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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