Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — August 17, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

These days "tension" is a word which is in the active vocabulary of most people. We recognize tension at work, tension within a marriage, tension about making both ends meet. Tension occurs when forces move in opposite directions. A simple example is a rubber band, pull the ends away from each other and you produce tension. If the tension continues to increase, the rubber band will snap. Jesus warned that his doctrine would bring about tension which would end in division, even within families.

In the family of the Church there is tension, especially in many places regarding the Liturgy. We ought to be living like a happy family, in unity and peace, but forces are pulling in opposite directions, one wishing to move forward with the restoration of Vatican II and the other wanting to go back to earlier theology and practice.

Here is a straight talk. Moving backwards is not the right direction. Wanting to believe that the Pope is ultra-conservative and regrets where the Vatican II has been leading the Church is not only a vain wish; it is an affront to the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Pope seems to dismiss the strident voices of complaint against the Council without so much as a nod in their direction.

The Pope acts in accord with the solemn pronouncements of the Council's Constitution on the Liturgy, a pronouncement which should inspire every person of the Church and must guide every bishop and priests. "Zeal for the promotion and restoration of the liturgy is rightly held to be a sign of the providential disposition of God in our time, as a movement of the Holy Spirit in his Church. It is today a distinguishing mark of the Church's life, indeed of the whole tenor of contemporary religious thought and action." (#43).

Perhaps you have been spared the grief of reading attacks by Catholics upon the Second Vatican Council, such as "the Second Vatican Council was the door through which the devil entered the Church to bring about the worldwide revolt against the order of God." If you have been so spared, thank God for that favor. If you have in any way been swayed by these charges dismiss them as evil.

Of course there have been abuses against the liturgy but that is no excuse for attacking the restored liturgy itself. We do not abandon the judicial system of our country just because some judges and juries fail to act in accord with justice. The abuse is not the system but a contradiction of it. Do not end up on the wrong side of God as did the princes who wanted to put Jeremiah, God's prophet, to death. The promotion and restoration of the sacred liturgy is God's work through the Holy Spirit. Do not be the cause of tension in the Church. Make sure you are pulling in the same direction as the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**August 19**	**11:00AM**
C. Essex & Janice (anniversary)		Mom & Dad
Wed.	**August 20**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**August 21**	**11:00AM**
Alex Rubang Jr. † (birthday)		Josie & Family
Fri.	**August 22**	**11:00AM**
Charlie Bautista		Josie
Sat.	**August 23**	**4:30PM**
Edgar Allan & Theresa (anniversary)		Mom & Dad
Sun.	**August 24**	**9:00AM**
David Ponti † (death anniversary)		Mom
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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