Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 26, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In the Gospel Reading this weekend Jesus tells us the truth which was proposed in the Book of Sirach, that "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest until it reaches its goal." God favors prayers which are humble. Such is the lesson within the parable of the two men who went up to the temple to pray. God was not pleased with the prayer of the proud Pharisee. Actually, it was no prayer at all but only a list of self-congratulations. But God was pleased with the humble tax collector. His was a sincere prayer for mercy.

Jesus took delight in making the least likely candidate for imitation the hero of his stories (remember it was a hated foreigner, the good Samaritan, who was the hero of an earlier parable). Everybody despised the tax collectors, the ancient version of the IRS, but this man acknowledged his sins and begged God for mercy.

Jesus chose this hated tax collector to be the hero because he addressed the parable "to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt." The Pharisee in the parable represented such people. He had the worst form of "I" trouble. He could see only himself in a favorable way.

Although he thanked God for not making him like the rest of people, he was hypocritical. He did not mean what he said. He really saw himself as a self-made man who did not need anyone, not even God. It was a fundamental mistake, the originating sin of our first parents who thought they could put themselves in place of God. Self-made people are like cars which we call "lemons". They have serious defects because they had incompetent manufacturers and are doomed to repeated failures.

The tax collector was not a "lemon" but he was like a car which has endured careless driving and a lack of maintenance. The only solution is to bring the car back to the dealer for a complete overhaul. The tax collector made the right choice. He went to the right person for the repairs he needed. He made no excuses. He diagnosed his own problem and asked God for the grace he needed in his simple prayer, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner,"

The tax collector's prayer was one of petition, a plea for help, the type of prayer we often offer to God. Authentic petitions express the kind of humility of which Jesus approved. We ask God's favors because we know he is the right person to turn to, that he has the power to help us. That is one half of humility; to acknowledge God's power which is greater than any power in the universe. The second half of humility is to admit that we need God, that we cannot go it alone, that we depend on God's love as well as on his power. Humble prayer expresses God's power and our need. Our humble prayer goes right to heaven because the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds and does not rest until it reaches its goal.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 28**	**11:00AM**
Ernesto De Paz (birthday)		Family
Wed.	**October 29**	**11:00AM**
Virginia Cachaper (Thanksgiving)		Jong & Alma
Thur.	**October 30**	**11:00AM**
Felicitas Nieves (healing)		Ed & Mae
Fri.	**October 31**	**11:00AM**
Charles Roth (birthday)		Buenaflor- Roth Family
Sat.	**November 1**	**4:30PM**
Nicolas Cachaper †		Jong & Alma
Sun.	**November 2**	**9:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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