Twenty-Nineth Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 19, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

This Sunday's First Reading symbolizes liturgical prayer. Moses needed strength to continue praying during a battle with the Amalekites. As long as Moses kept his hands raised in prayer, the Israelites had the better of the struggle, but when he let his hands rest, the Amelekites seized the ascendancy. Then Moses' brother Aaron and his friend Hur helped him to keep his hands raised in prayer and the Israelites won the battle.

Moses with his hands raised in prayer looked like a priest today with his hands raised in prayer during the liturgy of the Mass. A priest will not grow tired as did Moses, but everyone at Mass should spiritually hold up the arms and the hands of the priest. People and priest must pray together. The priest does not pray for himself alone. He is the leader, the presider, who prays for the sake of the people. At times people and priest say or sing prayers together, as with the Gloria and the acclamations. At times the people respond to the prayers which the priest says in the name of everyone. At times people are to listen attentively and pray in their hearts, particularly during the Eucharistic prayer.

The priest is the liturgical sign of unity who signifies that our prayer ascend to God as from a single people. We are like the thousands of threads which form a strong chord. Not only the priest at mass but every person needs and deserves the support of fellow Catholics, especially in order to persevere in prayer when we feel that God is not answering us. We believe that our help comes from the Lord, but at times it is hard to act in accord with that belief.

Jesus understands our weakness. That is why he tells us a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart. The widow in the parable from the Gospel Reading this Sunday was persistent; she refused to give up. Jesus does not want us to give up either, no matter how hard or how long we have been praying for something. In order to persevere in prayer Jesus wants us to pray together, especially during the mass.

We come to Mass for many reasons, and probably everyone of us has motives which are distinctively our own, each one of them valid and important, but above all we must be alert to put into practice the lesson of this day's liturgy.

As Catholics, as people of the Church, we have responsibilities toward one another. Aaron and Hur did not abandon Moses when he grew tired. They did not think that Moses ought to pray alone or that they had to be attentive to their own individual prayers. God is pleased with prayer which is strong because we all are praying not as isolated individuals, but together as Catholics, as people of the church, united by the Spirit as the one body of Christ.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**October 21**	**11:00AM**
Leah Bañaga (birthday)		Lola
Wed.	**October 22**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**October 23**	**11:00AM**
Chuch Roth (birthday)		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Fri.	**October 24**	**11:00AM**
Oliver Bañaga (birthday)		Mom
Sat.	**October 25**	**4:30PM**
In memory of past ICF members		ICF #14
Sun.	**October 26**	**9:00AM**
Jorge, Tomasa, Jose, Celia & Manuel		Your Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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