



**ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH BULLETIN August 23 2020**

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Congratulations Agnes and Nelson on their 25th wedding anniversary!

Agnes is a member of the Parish Pastoral Council and director and soloist of the Chinese choir. Nelson is an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

Agnes and Nelson renewed their marriage vows at a special Mass on August 19.

**Peter spoke through Leo**

St. Leo was probably born in Rome around 400 into a family of Tuscan origin. Leo was a deacon under popes Celestine I (422–32) and Sixtus III (432–40), both of whom had entrusted him with diplomatic missions.

In 440, Leo traveled to Gaul on a mission to make peace between two generals. While still in Gaul, Leo learned about the death of Pope Sixtus and his own election as successor to the Chair of Peter. Having returned to Rome, the new Pope was consecrated on 29 September 440. The pontificate of Leo lasted 21 years. He is one of the three popes designated as “the Great,” and he merits this title because of his teaching and his governance.

As a pastor of souls, Leo taught the faith through preaching. Approximately 100 sermons of Leo have been preserved. Leo constructed his sermons very carefully—with an introduction, a theme with examples, and a definite conclusion.

Leo delivered the sermons during liturgies. He preached on Love of God and love of neighbor, articles of the Creed, fidelity to the will of God, practice of virtues, mortification, and daily prayer.

The Council of Chalcedon took place during the pontificate of Leo the Great. Pope Benedict XVI said, “This Council, held in 451 and in which 350 Bishops took part, was the most important assembly ever to have been celebrated in the history of the Church. Chalcedon represents the sure goal of the Christology of the three previous Ecumenical Councils: Nicea in 325, Constantinople in 381 and Ephesus in 431. By the sixth century these four Councils that sum up the faith of the ancient Church were already being compared to the four Gospels. This is what Gregory the Great affirms in a famous letter: ‘I confess that I receive and revere, as the four books of the Gospel so also the four Councils’, because on them, Gregory explains further, ‘as on a four-square stone, rises the structure of the holy faith’. The Council of Chalcedon, which rejected the heresy of Eutyches who denied the true human nature of the Son of God, affirmed the union in his one Person, without confusion and without separation, of his two natures, human and divine.”

Leo expressed faith in Christ in an important letter to the Bishop of Constantinople. In the letter Leo states: “In this preservation, then, of the real quality of both natures, both being united in one person, lowliness was taken on by majesty, weakness by strength, mortality by the immortal.”

The Tome to Flavian was read at the Council of Chalcedon. The Bishops acclaimed: “Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo”.

With regard to governance, Leo stressed the primacy of the Roman See in his dealings with the rest of the Catholic world. Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that from the interventions which Leo made during the Christological controversy, “it is clear that the Pope felt with special urgency his responsibilities as Successor of Peter, whose role in the Church is unique since ‘to one Apostle alone was entrusted what was communicated to all the Apostles’, as Leo said in one of his sermons for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. And the Pontiff was able to exercise these responsibilities, in the West as in the East, intervening in various circumstances with caution, firmness and lucidity through his writings and legates. In this manner he showed how exercising the Roman Primacy was as necessary then as it is today to effectively serve communion, a characteristic of Christ’s one Church.”

In 452, near Mantua, Leo confronted Attila the Hun and persuaded him to withdraw, and on meeting the Vandal Gaiseric outside Rome in 455, Leo induced him to spare the city from fire and massacre.

Pope Leo died on November 10, 461. Pope Benedict XIV declared him a doctor of the Church in 1754.