

Dear Parishioners,



As we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi this year, perhaps we find ourselves in not so much of a celebratory mood when we survey the general landscape of turmoil around us in our society and world these days. Sadly, the headlines of the news in our country and elsewhere offer a steady stream of depressing tragedies, violence, bloodshed, war, and general evidence of deep dissatisfaction and dismay in both the young and aged for many and different reasons. A recent study has shown that many of our young people are suffering very high levels of depression and suicide, not to mention drug overdoses and various addictions. The older among us are hit very often with deep loneliness and depression with fewer family members to assist them.

In the midst of these trying times and uncertainties, we are asked, nonetheless, to affirm daily our choice and decision to serve the living God, recalling Joshua's well-known declaration: *"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jos 24:15)."*

Faith always entails making a choice and taking responsibility to live God's will, to respond, to know and love God above all things, not just when convenient or easy to do so but even when things are inconvenient and challenging. *"Like gold in the furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them (Wis 3:6),"* we are told by the sacred author, but we'd rather another way but such was seldom ever granted to the prophets and the saints.

With humble perseverance and commitment to prayer peace breaks through the chaos and din of our lives, the soul is uplifted, hope is given, the foolish become wise, the weary find new strength, the fearful find courage, the reluctant find determination and resolve.

Someone has said, *"If you want to change the world, start with yourself."* Good advice that speaks well of why our Lord insisted that if we wish Him to dwell in us, then we must partake of Him, receive Him, welcome Him, spend time with Him, talk to Him, and visit Him often.

It is easily observed that many are hooked on their phones always and everywhere but what amount of time do we devote to God and the things that pertain to God? Could the distress of our age not reflect that a world that ignores God, loses its soul and wills its self-destruction?

If we want something better for ourselves, others, our church, our parish, our world, resolve to spend time with Him who can do all things for us who awaits us with true and deep longing. Our Lord's presence in the Tabernacles of our churches is often ignored, treated with indifference, hatred, a lack of reverence, contempt and sacrilege, let us, by contrast, offer to our Eucharistic Lord some measure and sacrifice of our sincere love for Him with genuine devotion and firm desire to offer Him reparation for the many offenses He endures even by many who profess otherwise.

May our faith in the Holy Eucharist be renewed so that the medicine of Him whom we need can cure our many ills and the long weariness that we carry in our hearts. Let us recognize that our Blessed Lord wants to sustain us, bring us hope, and grant us the peace the world cannot give (JN 14:27), and wills to nourish our souls saying, *"My flesh is true food indeed; and My Blood true drink indeed (JN 6:55)."*

In the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,

Fr. Damian Breen, Pastor