

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

Following the great Solemnities of the Lord that are the mysteries of the Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, we continue to give witness to the glory of God and His divine nature in the reality and daily life of our human nature. While these divine realities lead us to contemplation and faithfulness, our active living of the virtues, practice of charity, and care of society keep us on. We walk by faith, and not by sight.

With gratitude, let us thank all those who made last weekend's Eucharistic procession so beautiful, truly inspiring our walk into the public square. Special greetings must be addressed to our many volunteers, particularly among them the Knights of Columbus, the Worship and Spiritual Life Commissions, the Altar Servers, and baldacchino builders and bearers. Thank you also to each and every one who processed, participated, and prayed throughout the day in such a beautifully visible and generous way. May the many graces of the Lord, present in Body and Blood, come upon all of us, our families, and all those who fell under His gaze throughout the day.

Jesus invites us to approach Him in prayer and sacrament. He invites us to faith! We may not see or know how, but He draws us forth and gives us life. Let us be eager in coming to Him!

Next weekend we will begin returning to the Altar of God for the reception of Holy Communion. In a visible and public way, Jesus would call those who would be His disciples to step forward and proclaim their faith in Him. Billy Graham, that great American evangelist who touched the lives of many, would conclude his preaching of the Gospel and powerful talks, with an "altar call", inviting those convicted in Christ to come down from high rafters and stadium

bleachers to the spaces and fields below. Yet, do we not find the origins of this very act in the Holy Mass? As we come to the edge of the sanctuary, the meeting place between Heaven and Earth, do we not proclaim, profess, and boldly exclaim in word and action "Amen!", "I do believe"!

I am grateful to our Worship Commission for having considered and proposed a plan for the distribution of Holy Communion at the steps of the sanctuary (details of which you can find in the following pages). By divine providence, and beginning the same weekend, Bishop Byrne, together with all the bishops throughout New England, have lifted the dispensation from the Sunday obligation. As the commandments of the Lord God direct us to keep holy the Sabbath, and the precepts of the Church instruct us to participate in the Mass, we are obliged, as men and women of Christ, as faithful sons and daughters of God, to share in His sacrificial memorial. We are the members of the Body of Christ, and it is He who calls us into sacramental communion. It is time to return to Mass. It is time to return to the Altar of God.

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz