

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

Through the grace of adoption, God chose us to be children of light. These words of the Collect, orienting our prayer and gathering our intentions in Holy Mass today, are a sign of our filial relationship in God. They remind us of our being called the sons and daughters of a Heavenly Father through the Only Begotten Son. Furthermore, we engage this dignity as children of light. We are to live in the light of the Gospel, not the darkness of error, the slavery of sin. We are to know the wisdom of God, not the denial of His truth.

In a bold way, we manifested this witness of faith in Christ and His Church as we celebrated Corpus Christi last week. With great celebration and joy, in the splendor of sacred hymns and steady steps, we walked the Main Street of Agawam sharing the light of our Eucharistic Lord. Jesus IS present in our midst! Jesus IS here in Agawam!

Much praise and thanks must be offered to our Worship Commission, planning so well and diligently our encounter (on Father's Day no less!). Thank you to Trish Brown, Jane Trevethan (our great Year of the Eucharist organizer), Bella Manning and our fantastic music ministry team, our servers, sacristans, noble Knights of Columbus, and you the faithful who gave such strident witness! What a beautiful celebration and sign!

Jesus invites us to follow Him always. He joins us along the journey and is eager to lead us to our true home. Yet, too often we will wander aimlessly on our own. Easily we will lose our way, miss our steps, and stumble in sanctity. Though faltering, let us never lose sight of Christ Jesus. Let us recognize Him in His Body, the Church. Let us receive Him humbly and faithfully, putting aside all things, feelings, desires, or

hurts that would prevent us confessing our weakness and accepting His strength. For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz