

Sunday April 26, 2020

Pastor's Corner

Drive-through Parish Eucharistic Blessing this Sunday

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder.” That saying means we feel greater desire and appreciation for someone or something once that person or thing is no longer around. That saying aptly describes what many people are feeling with the absence of public Mass and Holy Communion. We miss them, we can't wait to have them back, and we sure won't take them for granted when we do. That sentiment explains why we have had such a turnout for the Eucharistic Blessings we have offered outside of Church the last two weekends.

On Easter Sunday, from 10 am – 2 pm – for four hours non-stop – Fr. Thien and I offered prayers for our parishioners and school families (who drove by in their cars) and blessed them with the Eucharistic Monstrance. There was great appreciation for the opportunity. Many people said how much they missed Church and Holy Eucharist and how much they couldn't wait till things were back to normal.

This past Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, we again offered the Eucharistic Blessing outside of Church. While there weren't as many people as on Easter Sunday, Fr. Thien and I still blessed people for two-plus hours. This says to me that, true to the saying, absence has made the heart grow fonder for the Eucharist.

This Sunday, April 26, weather permitting, Fr. Thien and I intend to bring the Eucharist into our parish and bless our parishioners and neighborhoods with the Monstrance from the back of a trailer, pulled by a pickup truck. As I write this column, we are still ironing out the details of the event. We won't be able to drive down every street within our parish's geographic boundaries. Some streets are narrow, some have dead-ends (no turning around the trailer), some about the railroad tracks, etc. But we will do the best we can to bring Jesus into our community.

I am not high-tech at all, but I understand we can register our event on Google Maps so people can follow the progress of our drive and know when we are approaching their street or neighborhood.

See the St. Francis Parish Map in this bulletin and look for announcements about the driving route and other details on our website and in daily emails. If God allows it, we may be driving in front of your house with Jesus this coming Sunday. Won't that be a wonderful blessing in the midst of the coronavirus challenge?

God bless,
Fr. Joe