

Message from Father Pergjini: (August 1, 2021)

In last Sunday's bulletin, July 25th, I wrote about the first basic part of the Liturgy of the word. After the priest reads the Gospel, he delivers his homily. The word of God is meant to be heard, and hearing requires silence. Today, it is sad to say that some people cannot be still even for a short period of time. There are many distractions and one of them is using cell phones during the celebration of the Holy Mass. Hearing requires attention, requires the silence of body and mind to listen to God's word which consoles our broken souls. The faithful who humbly listen are aware that the priests have their human limits. Some of them are not gifted to preach, and others with their effective homilies inspire and move the faithful. The priest has to preach Jesus Christ and not himself. He is not supposed to preach what he likes or making people feel comfortable. The faithful need to listen to the spirit of truth and love of Christ that touches our daily life. It should be a call for conversion. The word of God preached well must penetrate that hidden part of ourselves where we are unwilling to face our past and present sinfulness. Mercy, Love and the Truth of God's commandments should be the focus during the preaching in order to touch our hearts and souls. An honest and faithful priest should not separate Christ's Mercy from His divine Truth. Jesus Christ did not please everyone, some of them left him and others remained with Christ. Those who left were unwilling to follow Christ. Those who remained with him knew very well that they had to follow him to the End, without End. The homily is a very important part of the sacrifice of the holy Mass because it provides for the faithful food for our souls and minds. Through a good homily we can know the redeeming value of this divine celebration and effectively use the sacraments of confession, matrimony, and anointing of the sick. After the homily, the priest, and the faithful stand. They begin the Creed or the Profession of Faith by saying "I believe..." What does it mean the Creed or Profession of Faith? The Catechism of our Catholic Church answers the question very well. "Faith is man's response to God, who reveals Himself and gives Himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life. The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God, and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only God will find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for." And this is what you and I believe professing our Catholic faith. I highly recommend to every Catholic to have a copy of the book of the Catechism of the Catholic Church at our homes. It is a real treasure. The Catechism starts explaining the profession of faith that we every Sunday and on solemnities we stand as a community and part of the universal church united in the spirit of Christ. We freely profess what you and I believe, in one God, Father Almighty. We profess the Creed after we carefully have listened to God's word, from the Old and New Testaments, the gospel and the preaching related personally to our daily experience. As we profess our faith, we should be firm and determined pronouncing the words "I believe" because we believe in the power of Almighty Father who through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we have come to discover his face and his real presence at this powerful divine celebration. At this holy sacrifice, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit penetrates into our minds and souls knowing our faith, our fears, doubts, concerns, pains, sufferings, but also our hopes and desires.

