

Fr. Pergjini's Message:

September 12, 2021

"Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God". Psalm 41:2-3.

After twenty years of that unforgettable tragic event, we still go through that painful memory of terror that our souls and hearts are yearning and thirsting for God to calm our painful memories of that day. Tuesday, September 11, 2001. It was one of the most beautiful days of September with its blue and sunny skies and a pleasant breeze. It was a gorgeous September morning. I was scheduled to celebrate the Holy Mass at 12pm. As I walked into the sanctuary to start the Holy sacrifice of the Mass I saw a huge crowd of people in front of me, among them many policemen and firemen. It was very unusual for a daily Holy Mass to have such a big number of people attending. I could touch the pain of the crowd, and the crowd could touch my pain which I deeply felt into my soul. They all looked at me in those moments to be consoled in Christ. As the opening prayer was said and the time for readings came, I went to sit in my chair feeling the pain of those tragic moments, the agonizing death in the flames and smoke of thousands of victims and the unspeakable pain of their families. In those moments of tears and pain I felt that Christ was crying with us. Silence, pain, sufferings, tears. I found rest only in Christ trying to take refuge and hope in Him. During the consecration of the body and soul of Christ I experienced the presence of those who tragically died in the flames, and smoke. I also thought of the unbearable pain of the families who lost their dear ones, some of them I knew very well. Here we are, after 20 years of that tragic day thinking back and remembering in our prayers and thoughts. For sure, the victims' families and many of us who still recall with pain that beautiful September morning, it is still a shock to remember how quickly that beautiful day turned into deadly smoke and flames and brokenness, as our life was changed forever by the terror of Sept 11th. The Saint Pope John Paul II, said about Sept 11th, "even if the forces of darkness appear to prevail, those who believe in God know that evil and death do not have the final say." What a powerful statement to reflect the redeeming value of the mystery of Christ! What a consoling moment for all of us to think on this 20th anniversary when pain and suffering become unbearable for so many people. And yet, we are united with Almighty Father who is all-powerful, through Christ who becomes the Divine Guest every time the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated on the altar. It is this great divine Eucharistic power that must penetrate the depth of our souls. In this powerful mystery our existence points toward eternal life which can never co-exist with evil and terror. We pray for peace and conversion of those who violently think and act against innocent people. Yes, indeed we are people who hope in eternal life not simply a hope for the future, in which we can escape and find some rest for our minds and souls, but our hope for ETERNITY becomes a guiding discipline for our present, and this excludes the evil of terror and immorality. Finally, with the Saint Pope John Paul II we can state with a firm and determined voice: that evil and death do not have the final say. The final say belongs to Christ, our Eternal Lord and Savior. AMEN. On this twentieth anniversary of September 11, 2001, of very sad memories, may we find refuge and consolation in the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and adoration, and we should remember all those who have died, those who sacrificed their life in that tragic day of September 11th, and their families.

We think and pray for those who have recently died in Afghanistan the deadly terror attacks, for those Americans who still hope to escape the terror of Taliban and home. As we will all hear the toll bell on Sept 11th, at 8:46am, we will pause for a moment in prayer praying for the innocent victims of Islamic terrorism of tragic event of Sept 11, 2001, and the persecuted Christians around the world who have been killed, beheaded, and even crucified! Let us pray for them now and always! Also, we have the command from Christ to pray for our enemies! May the power of Eucharist can touch the hearts of our enemies and they **may come to know** the power of Christ of Love and Mercy! May we as Catholics be faithful to the Divine Truth and God's commandments! May our minds and souls today and always be thirsting for the living God as the beautiful psalm reminds.

"Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God." Psalm 41:2-3.

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine upon Them! May They Rest in Peace!
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us sinners! Amen!

