



## **Loving God and our Neighbor: Living the Mission of the Eucharist**

Loving God and Father, we give You thanks and praise! You have revealed Yourself to humanity as the Source of all creation, while at the same time as the One who wills us into existence, loves us unconditionally and extends Your mercy to us even in our sinfulness.

As the greatest expression of Your love, You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, to be one with us by taking on our human nature, while remaining one with You in His divinity. Jesus taught us Your love, revealed You as Our Father, and showed us what it means to fulfill the greatest of all Your commands: to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Having fulfilled the mission You gave Him, to redeem the human race and to bring us the Gift of Salvation, Jesus revealed the perfect way to remain with us through the Gift of the Eucharist,

His Body and Blood, as our Food and Drink, to nourish us on our journey of faith, and to give us the strength to fulfill the Great Commandment of loving God and neighbor just as He did.

Please send Your Holy Spirit upon each of us and upon our entire Diocese so that, just as You inflamed the hearts of the frightened Apostles on the original Feast of Pentecost, so too, may the same Holy Spirit Ignite the Faith in our hearts. May this holy fire of Your love renew our devotion to this miraculous Gift of the Eucharist, and set our hearts aflame with love for You, so that we will joyfully share the Good News of Your love with all those we meet, especially the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized and those who have never heard of Your love, but who desperately need it.

May our dear Blessed Mother, to whose maternal care and protection we have consecrated our Diocese, intercede on our behalf and help us to do what she always did in saying “Yes” to Your holy will. May her prayers move us to stay close to her Son, Jesus, through His Self-Gift in the Eucharist, and help us live as His joyful disciples in this world, that we may one day be brought to the joy of our Heavenly Home.

We ask this through Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord, now and forever. Amen.



~ MOST REV. PAUL J. BRADLEY  
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO