

## Fr Ryan Homily 6/14/20 -Corpus Christi Sunday

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a (167A); 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58

For the past 3 months now, Catholics, at least in our Diocese, have been asked to wait for the mass and now its finally almost time to return to the Eucharist. This weekend, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, many here are going to receive their first holy communion, to be united with Jesus spiritually in that way for the first time, to be made one with Him. And we certainly keep all of them in our thoughts and prayers on that beautiful and joyous occasion for them. When all of this started, when mass was taken away, one of the first things that I said to you was please stay hungry for the Eucharist, please find ways to keep that desire burning within you and to make that longing grow. And for 3 months now we've had to social distance from Jesus and the Eucharist. Hopefully not in our prayer, hopefully not in our hearts, but Catholics have been away from the Eucharist. It's time to return. Friends it's time to return. Especially now, when we look at what's occurring in our nation, the civil unrest, we need Jesus. And we need Jesus in the Eucharist. On Friday, I was listening to Relevant Radio, one of the local Catholic radio stations 1050 am, and they were talking about something on the Patrick Madrid show in the morning that was new to me. It was about something that Fr Michael Scanlan said. Now if you don't know him, Fr Michael Scanlan, he was the president of Franciscan University in Steubenville for 26 years, a much beloved priest of anyone who knew him, dedicated to the youth, passed away in 2017. Well, in 1976 Fr. Scanlan was speaking at a conference, a large conference, and he gave a powerful prophecy, a prophecy being words that were given to him by the Lord, a message for the church. Now, no one has to believe one of these prophecies, it's a private revelation, but I happen to think it's pretty significant, it's been getting a lot of attention as of lately and amazingly resonant to what we've been experiencing, the lockdown, the shut downs, not being able to go to church's, economic difficulties, now the riots that we're seeing. So, I wanna walk us through what our Lord said to Fr Scanlan and just kinda comment on it as we go. And I will say here, don't be afraid of anything that's said, it's gonna lead to a tremendous love and a tremendous hope so stick with me as we're going through this. So, Fr Scanlon gave his prophecy in 1976, it was the bicentennial of our nation, and you can find the whole thing easily enough online, it's pretty short, Fr

Michael Scanlan 1976 prophecy. When I read it the first time, it kinda left me breathless because there are things that are happening now that weren't 44 years ago. And there is a wisdom here for us, and there's a warning for us and instruction for us that's very relevant. And it begins like this, our Lord speaking to Fr Scanlan, the Lord says, *"Son of Man"*, that's how he addresses him *"Son of man, do you see that city going bankrupt? Are you willing to see all your cities going bankrupt? Are you willing to see the bankruptcy of the whole economic system you rely on now so that all money is worthless and cannot support you?"* You know when the coronavirus first hit, and the stock market fell, people lost their jobs or some people had their salaries reduced. It was gut check time I think for all of us. What am I really relying on? Where's my trust really? And there was so much anxiety and fear over money, over things like our health, and I saw what was happening as really an opportunity for us to re-center ourselves on the Lord who says where your treasure is there your heart will also be. So, to ask ourselves, do I seek first His kingdom or something else? Do I seek first His kingdom, and do I know and believe the promises He's made if I do? Back to the prophecy, let's continue. *"Son of man, do you see the crime and lawlessness in your city streets, and towns, and institutions? Are you willing to see no law, no order, no protection for you except that which I myself will give you?"* The riots that we all see going on, the world is being shaken and the church is being shaken in the world. What can be shaken will be shaken says the Book of Hebrews. But here's the key, he says, are you willing to let that happen, to let that fall and accept what I myself will give you, the protection that I myself can provide for you. See, the Lord wants us to come to Him, to come back to Him with complete confidence and complete trust that if we are seeking first the kingdom of God and His Holiness, all these other things will be given as well. So not only food and water and shelter but that protection that we're looking for in the midst of our breakdown of law and order. The message to Fr Michael Scanlan it goes on, our Lord says *"Son of man,"* again this was in the bicentennial year, *"do you see the country which you love and which you are now celebrating, a country's history that you look back on with nostalgia? Are you willing to see no country, no country to call your own except those I give you as my body? Will you let me bring you life in my body and only there?"* You know a lot of us are concerned with what's happening in our country, in the midst of it there is an aggressive secularism that wants to just stamp Judeo-Christian values. And that's hostile to Christ, and

hostile to the church and it wants to punish us, arrest us, remove us from social media if we say things that are displeasing to the mob, we're afraid they will shut us up. And so, they want to take control and have censorship on the Word of God so that we can't speak it anymore. And so, brothers and sisters we now more than ever need to speak. As our Lord says, or as St. Paul says, whether it's convenient or inconvenient, whether it's in season or out of season, SPEAK IT. And we need to have the courage and the fortitude of the Lord to be able to persevere in doing that. Are you willing to see no country, no country to call your own except that which I give you as my body? And friends, that's right from the Bible, Jesus Himself says my kingdom is not here below. The disciples say we have no city to call our own, well, why is that? Because we are citizens of Heaven even now. Our city is the new Jerusalem, the new Jerusalem that's already being formed among the members of the Body of Christ, that's the church as we are nourished by the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. So, brothers and sisters we need to know that our primary loyalty, our primary family is our brothers and sisters in Christ who are sustained with us by the Eucharist. The Eucharist that I hope everyone, again, is longing to return to because it's time, it's time in our society. But as so many have been cut off from the mass and the Eucharist we do need to remember He has been with us, He's still with us, He's with us in His word, He's with us in one another, He's with us in that in-dwelling Trinity in the soul. The next part of our Lord's prophecy to Fr Scanlan and remember this was given back in 1976. The Lord says, *"Son of man, do you see those churches which you can go to so easily now? Are you ready to see them with bars across their doors, with doors nailed shut? Are you ready to base your life only on me and not on any particular structure? Are you ready to depend only on me and not on all the institutions of schools and parishes that you are working so hard to foster?"* I know we love our parishes and our schools, don't we? Because it's where we come to learn about the Lord, worship the Lord, receive the sacraments. But how many parishes and schools have we seen close in the developed world? How many Catholic schools? And we might be preparing to see even more whether it comes through a disaster or something else; it's just coming. It is. And we need to re-center ourselves on the Lord who is with us every day and not on those externals. Not on the place but on the person. Are you ready to depend only on me and not on all the institutions of schools and parishes that you are working so hard to foster? *"Son of man, I call you to be ready for that. That is what I am*

*telling you about.*" Son of man I call you to be ready for that, that is what I am telling you about. And he goes on *"The structures are falling and changing. It is not for you to know the details now but do not rely on them as you have been. I want you to make a deeper commitment to one another. I want you to trust one another, to build an interdependence that is based on my Spirit."* So to have that ability to come together with our brothers and sisters in Christ within our homes, to nurture the faith with our brothers and sisters in Christ, when mass isn't available to us because of a virus or something else, do we just drop it completely? Or do we find those innovative ways to continue to come together in faith and worship the Lord and grow in our faith. Jesus says build an interdependence that's based on my spirit. And He says, *"It is an interdependence that is no luxury. It is an absolute necessity for those who will base their lives on me and not the structures from a pagan world."* And what Jesus is saying right there is the same thing He said in the Gospel, that His followers are gonna need one another. We need one another to survive that onslaught of the secular world. That it's not a luxury to have relationships openly with brothers and sisters in Christ, we need it. And here's the very end of the prophecy that was given to Fr Michael Scanlan, the final words that Jesus spoke to him and he said *"Look about you, son of man. When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted, and when you are prepared to live without these things, then you will know what I am making ready."* We just seen it all shut down. It's almost like the Lord was saying there will be a sign, you'll be given a sign. And from 1976 that sign didn't come for 44 years but it just happened. When you see it all shut down, when you see everything removed which has been taken for granted and when you are prepared to live without these things -meaning that you are finally putting Jesus first in you life and not anything else. And when we get real in our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, then you will know what I am making ready. Now I know it might be true that we can read that last line very ominously, I don't think we should, I think it's very hope filled, I think it's a good thing. Why? Well, everything is spoken about here because of God's love. But what is it gonna take to wake us up? What is it gonna take to shake us out of our complacency and out of our luke-warmness? To shake us out of the indifference to God, if not this what? To shake us out of our worldliness and re-center our lives on Jesus. Where we will be able to be His witness's in the midst of a hostile environment. Right now, He's calling us to return. Saying return to me,

come back to me in the Eucharist, now is the time. And so, on this Feast of Corpus Christi, how much is the Eucharist of value to us? How much do we wanna come back? When we look at the craziness and the hatred that's fuming in the world around us, where would we rather be than united to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I believe the Lord is showing mercy to us in this prophecy of Fr Michael Scanlan, a prophecy that started in our time. And we need to not live in fear, not live in anxiety because Jesus is saying in this prophecy the same thing that He always said. He said, don't place your treasure in this world where it can be destroyed, and for many people it has, make Me your treasure. Treasure Me in the Eucharist, please return to Me there. Jesus is saying the structures of this world can be shaken but fear not, Jesus will never let anything happen to his brothers and sisters that He can't bring good out of and that He doesn't protect us from in the middle of. So, brothers and sisters, I share that prophecy of Fr Michael Scanlan on this Feast of Corpus Christi as everyone I pray is looking forward to return to mass and returning to the Eucharist again. Because I'm excited by this word, I think it's a word for today, it's a word for right now. That it's time to wake up. That it's nothing different than what Jesus and the apostles have been saying for 2,000 years. It's time to wake up, it's time to get with each other, it's time to not depend on those external things but to depend on our Lord Himself. Because the answer is simple and that's it, it's not complicated, Jesus says come back to Me. And I know for a fact that Jesus is excited to see each of you again in the Eucharist.

Amen