

***External Solemnity of Corpus Christi (USA)***  
***June 14, 2020***

Every year during the Easter Vigil, we stand as a parish family and renew our Baptismal resolutions. In these resolutions, we say “YES” to our belief in God and in His catholic church. On today’s feast, I wonder if we truly reflect upon that which we consent to.

Saint Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians: ***“Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”*** (2 Cor. 4:16). These beautiful words were written by Paul after first describing the suffering that he, along with other disciples, were enduring for the sake of the Gospel. When you and I renew our Baptismal resolutions, we are joining ourselves with Saint Paul to joyfully proclaim that we too are not discouraged by our daily lives. We are also being renewed each day.

Our renewal must first begin with our acceptance and firm commitment to our Baptismal resolutions. When we were baptized, we were anointed with the Sacred Chrism as a priest, prophet, and king. It is our role as priests that must be properly understood as children of God. Let us focus on two main aspects of our mutual baptismal priesthood; different from the ministerial priesthood that I possess.

As priests, we are all called to stand in the presence of the Lord and offer service not just for ourselves, but also for others. “Standing in the presence of the Lord” requires us to be aware of whose presence we are in. It is through this awareness, that I am called to remain vigilant. I remain vigilant; for I must be on guard to protect both myself and others from the presence of the evil one. To protect myself or another from evil; I must be found to be upright. To be upright, means far more than just our posture, but upright in the Truth; upright in our commitment to God. For you and I to stand in the presence of the Lord requires an honest, strong, determined uprightness which must be both fearless and joyful in the face of all.

As priests, we are also called to service. To serve well, one must first understand the role of a good servant. A good servant is always close to his master. He has access to many intimate moments in his master’s daily life. This closeness requires a sense of familiarity between master and servant. This closeness can be understood as a union of trust. This closeness can also pose a danger. The servant may become so familiar with his master that their union may lose the needed sense of respect. It may become “habitual.” How many times have we heard of someone leaving a church because the habit had become too overwhelming? They needed a new way to again find respect for the one true Master.

You and I are called to stand uprightly in the presence of our Divine Master with a great sense of respect, awe, and love. This requires we bear the burden of faithful servants. We must be willing to stand for the truth we have professed in our Baptismal resolutions; no matter where societal trends may want to take us. This task would surely overcome us if not for the fact that we have the opportunity to be renewed each day to stand firm. This renewal comes from the food that we are offered. Not ordinary food, but the Bread of Angels; the Bread of Life. The Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus, is the food and drink which renews us most fully to stand and serve as God’s children. The Eucharist strengthens our weak bodies and lagging spirits to imitate our Divine Lord and Master in our daily lives. I am offered the opportunity to become more like Him through His gift of Himself to me in the Eucharist. May we prepare ourselves to receive worthily the Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist daily offered to us as “Food for the Journey.”