

***Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***January 17, 2021***  
***Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #2)***

*“The amount of time I spend with either a person or a thing determines just how much I value that person or thing.”*

Two weeks ago as we began this year to both the Eucharist and the parish, I used the terms “investment” and “return” as a form of Introduction as to where our parish will journey during this year. Using the example of two pairs of shoes (one costing \$20 and the other costing \$120), I wanted us to reflection upon the question of how much we had either invested or how much we were willing to invest into our Catholic faith. I thought this a prudent starting point as we began this year long series. I believe we need to know, as best as possible, where we are before we can begin to move in any direction. Continuing with this same thought, I would like to shift our focus from how much we are invested into our God and Catholic faith; instead let us examine how much our God is invested into us.

We must first begin with this statement - Man is a physical being. Man is physical because he is composed of matter which takes up a given space at a given time. Man has physical senses which allow him to relate to his world. Although situations have and will continue to occur where man’s physical senses either diminish or never fully develop, they do not detract from the universal fact that we relate to the world in a physical way. Man also has the ability to use his mind to think, create, and imagine. We can conceive an idea of a thing and then create to bring the idea into a real, physical understanding. An example, we express the idea of love through physical expressions. A husband may buy flowers, cook a meal, write poetry (I know, I know, but it has happened, i.e. *The Sonnets of Saint Doug*) to express his love for his wife. A child will perform their chores and obey their parents as an expression of love. As Deacon Groves provided examples as to how God chose to reveal Himself to fallen humanity, God knows that we need concrete, physical things to express the thoughts of our minds and the feelings of our hearts. Therefore, God chose to make His spoken Word physically present in time. He completes this revelation with the Incarnation of His Word/His Son in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the most complete, most perfect physical expression of God’s Love to humanity. Everything Jesus says and does falls under this revelation of God’s Love toward humanity; most fully realized in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

I leave us with a thought to ponder, do we believe the words spoken by Jesus are those of God the Father? It would seem that if we held those words to be true, we would see the Catholic faith, and her church, as a continued physical reminder of God’s love and His Son’s life giving sacrifice. Yet, through a careful examining our actions, have we instead begun to unconsciously live a life expresses doubt in this revelation and, on a far deeper level, even a doubt to the existence of God? We will stop here and examine this thought next week.