

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***  
***April 28, 2024***  
***Year of the Most Holy Eucharist***  
***Reflection #18***

*“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.’ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasures of the temple of God and for the treasures for the dedicated things.” (1 Chronicles 28:10-12)*

Time has passed for the children of God. No longer wandering through deserted places, they have entered, conquered and settled in the Promised Land. They have been guided by the words of the Prophets and the hands of the Judges. During these years, they had lived through times of want and times of plenty. We read here they had fallen away from the worship of God only to suffer the consequences. We can also read where they turned back to Him with hearts contrite and humbled. And yet, they desire something more. They want to imitate the tribes around them being governed by a king. Although not the first king, David would be chosen, anointed and go on to become a great king. After many battles and the spilling of much blood, David expresses his yearning to build a permanent temple in his capital city, Jerusalem, where the people may come to worship God. God will approve this aspiration, but dictates that his son, Solomon, would be the one to build the temple.

One may question: Why should a permanent structure be built when, until this time of peace, the worship of God and His Presence had resided in the sanctuary first constructed in the wilderness? Had God demanded something more? To pose an answer, one has to theorize a reason for the movements of the human heart. We begin with David. He is not only a king; he is also an artist. With his music and poetry, David expresses the deep emotions people, including himself, often endure. In the Book of Psalms, David paints a vivid picture presenting man's relationship with God. In essence, David starts something which will be magnified and perfected by God at the Annunciation, he makes the word flesh. This is exactly what great artists, composers and sculptures do – they bring into existence those realities they conceive within their minds. The great Temple was an expression of the heart of the people for God.

In our times, there may be some who downplay the importance of the arts in our worship of God. They may even remind us that Jesus never built, composed or wrote any great work of art. Our religious history would counter this. The great works of Judaism and later Christianity were inspired by the Word of God. Whether it was the Temple, the Vatican, our Archdiocesan Cathedral, this parish church or the sacred prayer place within our own heart, the words of God become flesh in all of these. These are the visible signs of the expressions of our hearts.