A Message from our Pastor
Fr. Bob Cilinski

"Take this, this is my body.
This is my blood which will be shed for many."

My dear parishioners,

Today we celebrate the wondrousness of the gift we receive in the Eucharist.

Through the gift of Himself in bread and wine that becomes His Body, Jesus continues to be truly present to us at every Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. We cannot take for granted so great a gift and so profound a union that we share with Christ as we enter into the mystery of God's saving love.

Cyril of Alexandria (414-444) attempted to stir up in his listeners a marvel at the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist as food for our journey to heaven.

"Come then, let us hasten to the mystical supper. This day Christ receives us as his guests. This day Christ waits upon us… The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world is slain…. The life-giving chalice is mingled. God the Word Incarnate entertains us. Wisdom, who has built herself a house, distributes His body as her bread and gives us His blood as wine to drink. Life bestows itself on mortals as food and drink. You have tasted the fruits of disobedience. Taste now the food of obedience. Eat of me who is life. Eat of life, which never ends."

Let us honor Christ by our prayerful reverence and joy at Mass. Let us also recognize Christ in our brothers and sisters, especially those in need, the poor, the hurting, and most vulnerable… for they are also members of Christ's body. Having fed upon the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ, we are to flow forth from the Church, into our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools with Christ to make our world holy.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist. The Lord's Day is essential for our faith. Make Sunday Mass the heart of your week.

"They all ate and were satisfied"

Are you called to feed his flock as a priest?
Call Fr. Michael Isenberg, 703-841-2514,
or write: michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.

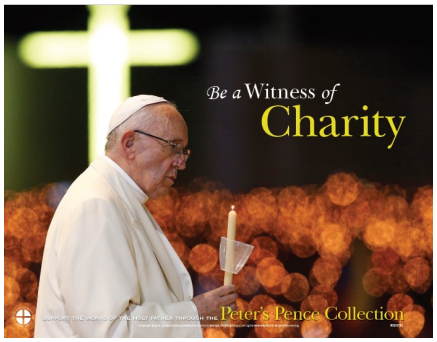
Retreat for the Seriously Ill

The Retreat for People Facing Serious Illness offers a unique opportunity for men and women who face serious physical illness to come away for a weekend of refreshment and spiritual renewal in the love of the Lord Jesus. The retreat is offered at no cost to participants. ***Held at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA, from July 12-14***, the retreat is staffed by a team of health care professionals who ensure medical needs are met, as well as priests and volunteers. Email contact information to Retreat@ccda.net or call the main phone line at (703) 335-2779 and dial option "9" for information on the retreat. To leave a message dial ext. 14.

Peter's Pence Collection

Next week, we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world.

The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.



The Religious Education Office is looking for Volunteer Catechists for the 2019-2020 School year.

If you are interested in sharing your gifts and talents and sharing your faith with our children, please contact us at the Religious Education Office. For more information: 703-455-0372 or nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Nativity Players Theater Ministry

Save the dates: Performances July 17th - 21st

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Father Bob Cilinski

June 25

Congratulations!

1ST ANNUAL

CORPUS CHRISTI

EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

June 23
12:45 Mass
2:00 Procession

Come celebrate the Truth of our Faith in the **Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ!**

Begin in Church at 2pm after the 12:45 Mass and process around the parish property. During the procession, we will be praying an International Rosary celebrating the universal nature of our Faith.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail from the parish, chances are you are not registered. Please stop by the Parish Office to become a registered member of Nativity Parish. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

The Weekend Drive - July 14-15th | We are collecting after ALL masses

Newborn Kits for Haiti

Stella Marina (An Operation Starfish Project) is requesting donations for our newborn kits – which will be used with our clean delivery birthing kits – in the Shada slums.

We need new or gently used

- Receiving blankets (for swaddling)
- New & Gently Used Washcloths (for diaper wipes)
- Onesies *(Thank you WON for helping us but we need a few more)*

We will also accept monetary donations to support the new maternity center in Good Shepherd Village.

Kit building will be on Saturday, September 21 at 10am for those in need of service hours! Look for the Sign Up Genius in early September.

Thank you for Supporting Us!

You're invited to:

"Flatlining: Conscience rights under attack"

Save the date for this June 29th event in Alexandria at:
Queen of the Apostles Church,
4401 Sano Street, Alexandria VA, 22312
Event begins with 8:00am Mass
(Presentation by Virginia Catholic Conference to follow immediately)

Calling all Catholic healthcare professionals and concerned patients!
Will you let New York-style abortion on demand and other conscience-killing laws spread to Virginia?

FACT: This year Virginia Delegate Kathy Tran (Springfield) introduced a bill - vocally supported by the governor - that would have eliminated most restrictions on third trimester abortions, allowing a healthy baby to be aborted at nine months, even if the mother is just about to give birth. Though the legislation failed, the push for it and other extreme abortion measures by Planned Parenthood and the abortion lobby demonstrate how far the abortion industry is willing to go in taking the life of a precious child.

FACT: The governor supported legislation seeking to make a "right to abortion" a fundamental right under the Virginia Human Rights Act. Passage of the bill could have forced medical professionals to violate their conscience by mandating that they provide access to abortions and other objectionable "reproductive services." Other coercive bills would have forced Virginia health insurance plans to cover abortion, sterilizations, abortifacients, contraceptives and "gender transition procedures."

FACT: In 2019, Delegate Kaye Kory (Falls Church) introduced a bill to legalize assisted suicide in the Commonwealth, even after the same proposal was decisively rejected by the bipartisan Joint Commission on Health Care in 2018.

Though each of these bills failed this year, many of them are expected to be back in 2020. At the same time, unelected state regulators are considering measures that could force Catholic healthcare professionals to conform to a state-mandated ideological agenda or risk sanction for professional misconduct. Like all Americans, Catholic healthcare professionals should be free to live and work consistently with their deeply held beliefs without fear of government punishment.

TAKE ACTION -- Learn more about what you can do to counter these radical proposals and safeguard your livelihood as a health care provider. Attend Flatlining: Conscience Rights under Attack on June 29 in Alexandria, Virginia.
The event is free, but registration is required.

Please visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/flatlining/ to register.
In prayer and in public, your voices are urgently needed to bring Gospel values to bear on vital decisions being made by those who represent you.

SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY

If you have a family member or friend, aged 18 years of age or older, with a mental illness, we would welcome you to a National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Virginia Family Support Group where we will share strategies and information to help ourselves and our loved ones.
The next monthly meeting will take place in Classroom 242 in the Nativity School, on Wednesday, June 26 from 7:30 – 9:00pm. For more information, go to www.NAMI-NorthernVirginia.org and visit the "Families" page. The group is led by co-facilitators trained by NAMI.

Summer Tips from Your Creation Care Ministry

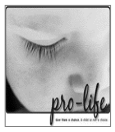
Traveling this summer? You can live Laudato Si by caring for creation during your summer adventures!

Bring your own water bottle and coffee go-cup. Plastic bottles are one of the largest pollution problems in many parts of the world. They require a lot of resources to make and cannot be recycled in all places. Bring your own to save natural resources and money.
Eat local. Consider local farmer's markets and restaurants that emphasize local sustainably raised foods. Eat more plant based foods for your health and the health of the environment.
Eat in. Avoid disposable take-out containers and other food packaging.
Turn off lights & AC/heater when not in use. Whether at home or in your hotel room, turn off anything not currently in use. While you are at it, consider setting your AC temp a degree or 2 higher. Fans only help if you are in the room so turn them off when you leave the room.
Get active. Take advantage of good weather to walk or ride your bike instead of hopping in the car.
Consider a "staycation" and enjoy your local community. Save money and resources.
Think twice about souvenirs and other purchases. Do you or your recipients really need more clutter? Could you donate to a local charity instead?
Visit a park or natural location and learn more about the local flora and fauna. Help your family to appreciate all of God's creation.
Leave your travel location cleaner than you found it. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

Creation Care Ministry wishes you a green summer!

Join the Nativity Plant Care Team

Plant lovers are needed to help water and care for the indoor palms and lilies in the church. This is a great opportunity to join the Art and Environment committee in keeping our church a peaceful and prayerful place.
For more information please contact
Joyce Giuliani at 703-569-7370 or jgiuliani@cox.net,
Melinda Engelbrektson at 703-887-6117 or
artandenvironment@nativityburke.org.



If you or someone you know has had an abortion, *"Be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."* Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is also available. Visit the *"Find Help"* map on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, *"Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion."*

Are you suffering from an abortion experience? PROJECT RACHEL offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 (projectrachel@arlingtondiocease.org) for a referral for private, sensitive and confidential counseling and/or reconciliation. (Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington).

Nativity Rosary Ministry

https://nativityburke.org/nativity-rosary-ministry-meeting/

This past year the rosary makers have made over 6000 rosaries for the foreign missions. Some of our motivation comes from the letters we receive from those who receive the rosaries. For example: Dorothy from Mary's Call tells us,

"Dear Rosary Makers, A part of you is in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana and in the hearts of the people there and in their prayers too. It is exciting to hear about the happiness and joy of the people who receive your rosaries... Fr. Anthony prays for you each day as does a new priest, Fr. Peter who is setting up a new church in the mountains in Nairobi. Other priests also ask Fr. Anthony for rosaries... you are getting well known and you are being prayed for. How you are spreading the rosary and prayers is miraculous. Thank you from a very grateful heart."

The rosary makers also supply our community and parish with rosaries - through the church rosary board, CCD, Legion of Mary, Prolife rosaries, Divine Mercy, Corpus Christi, and more.

There is a great need for rosaries and our intent is to put a rosary in as many hands as we can. That is why we are asking you to join us.

July 14th, Sunday at 2:00pm in the Pohick Public Library will be our only meeting this summer. Come and join us to learn cord rosaries or knotted rosaries. Once you learn, you can work at home at your own pace. We provide all the supplies. This is an awesome ministry for the young and old; women and men. Contacts: Diane Fields, dfields456@msn.com or Soledad Olivera, solivera.10@gmail.com.

Fr. Vaccaro will be available for extra confession from 7:45pm - 9:00pm on Wednesday, June 26th

ALTAR FLOWERS
Donated with Love by

The Reinhard Family
In Loving Memory of
Janice D. Jaekle

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, June 24
7:30am † Peter Lindemann

Tuesday, June 25
7:30am † Richard Zimmerman
12:00pm † Henry Kabado

Wednesday, June 26
7:30am † Albert Pilosi
(Heatherwood) 10:00am For a Special Intention

Thursday, June 27
7:30am † Donald Loyd
12:00pm Special Intention for Jennifer No

Friday, June 28
7:30am † Clarence Cooper

Saturday, June 29
9:00am Parishioners
5:00pm † Glenn D'Cruze
7:00pm † Esther Velasque

Sunday, June 30
7:30am † Charlotte Scales
9:00am † Joseph Orsino
11:00am † Richard Ferraro
12:45pm † Juan Espinosa
5:30pm † C.K. Quan

The priest schedule for Masses is found on our webpage:
nativityburke.org
In prayer, let us remember
the sick and deceased of the parish.

DOWNLOAD OUR BULLETIN

nativityburke.org/bulletin

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Join the Knights! Do you want to make a difference as a Catholic Gentleman? Then join the Knights of Columbus! Please contact DGK John Ostrowski at jaostrowski89@gmail.com if you are interested in joining our order or know someone who is.
If you want a quick easy alternative way to join the Knights, try Online Membership. In only 5-10 minutes, just go to www.kofc.org/joinus, fill out the needed information, and put Council 7992 as your preferred Council. We'll do the rest for you to make you a member of our Order and our Nativity Council!

Council Meeting: The next council meeting is Tuesday, 2 July. Rosary starts at 7:15pm and the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

End of Year Awards Dinner: Our End of Year Awards Dinner is Saturday, 29 June from 6:15pm to 8:15pm in the schools cafeteria. The annual dinner recognizes The Knight of the Year, the Family of the Year, and the Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman of the Year; we will also recognize our Council's Officers and the Committee Chairmen. Food will be provided by Spartans Family Restaurant Catering with tentative menu to include servings of: Chicken Parmesan, Stuffed Shells, Bake Ziti, Greek Salad, Garden Salad, and Desserts TBD). If you (and spouse) plan to attend, and have not yet rsvp'd please do so now for an accurate count for food. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4CACAA28A0F94-endofyear1

Vacation Bible School BBQ: Br. Chris Borer and PGK Mike Litzelman will co-chair the Vacation Bible School BBQ - set up in back lot next to the gym on 28 June. Serving time from 5:30pm to 6:30pm (tentative). ** *Need 4 Brothers to assist for pre-BBQ, grilling, serving, and clean-up efforts* ** *See SUG link below.* This is a great opportunity for new Knights to assist. Please consider volunteering. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4CACAA28A0F94-vacation

TWO WORDS: "ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY IS COMING IN JULY!" The next pick-up date is Saturday, July 13, weather permitting. Volunteers will gather at 10:00am in the Church of the Nativity lower parking lot (Old Keene Mill Road level) and have a brief organizational meeting where vests and bags will be distributed before departing to pick up trash along Old Keene Mill Road between Fairfax County Parkway and Lee Chapel Road. It is anticipated that the clean-up activity will be completed before 11:30am if enough volunteers are available. If you are able to participate, use signupgenius (see link below) or email Brother George Getek at ggetek@aol.com where the first "AWARD-WINNING ELITE EIGHT" VOLUNTEERS will be given priority. EARLY SIGN-UPS FOR VETERAN "ROAD WARRIORS" (AND OTHERS) ARE NOW OPEN AT: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945aaab28a64-adoptahighway13

Save the dates, upcoming events:
VBS BBQ - 28 June, EOY Awards - 29 June

Join the Knights! Do you want to make a difference as a Catholic Gentleman? Then join the Knights of Columbus! Please contact DGK John Ostrowski at jaostrowski89@gmail.com if you are interested or know someone who is.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org

Nativity Catholic School is seeking:

a Middle School Science Teacher

* qualified candidates possess a Bachelor's degree, background in Science, and teacher certificate license.

and a School Counselor

* to assist students; to provide suggestions to parents, teachers, and staff in addressing issues involving students under their supervision.
* to coordinate the guidance program based on the developmental needs of students, i.e., spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional issues.

Qualified candidates possess a Master's degree from an approved program in Counselor Education as stated in the Virginia Department of Education Licensure Regulations for School personnel. Send applications or inquiries to: mkelly@nativityschool.org. Join Us!

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Featured Field Trip Fun

~~ For our First Graders, as they toured the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History; and then for our Third Graders, as they explored the National Zoo.
A GREAT way to wrap up the school year!

****

Thinking Next School Year?

Registration for the 2019-20 School Year Open Now ~~ Preschool Through 8th Grade. Please contact our Registrar, Shannon Murphy, at smurph@nativityschool.org, or 703-455-2300, to schedule a tour and a day for your child to "shadow" here at school. Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching! Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment! Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

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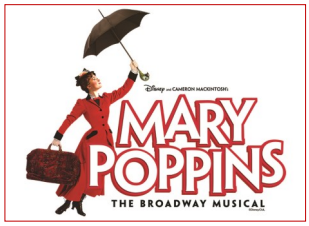
Kindergarten Seats Open for the 2019-20 School Year

A couple of Kindergarten seats available for next school year - contact Shannon Murphy, at smurph@nativityschool.org, or 703-455-2300, for more information. Join Us!

Photo: Our Kindergartners planted grass seeds as part our classroom Science experience. Each of us participated. Some of our seedlings had no sun, only water; some had no water, but sun; some had both. Our Results: The plants without sun were pale in color (without chlorophyll). We confirmed that an environment offering the right amounts of both sun and water grew the healthiest plants.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH



URTM Presents Mary Poppins — July 16-21

One of the most popular movies of all time is capturing hearts in a whole new way... as a *"practically perfect"* Broadway musical presented by the award-winning Upper Room Theatre Ministry now in its 18th season at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas.

Based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the classic Disney film, this magical musical is filled with spoonfuls of imagination, heart, and whimsy. You and your family will be swept away by such iconic tunes as *"Step in Time," "Chim Chim Cher-ee"* and, of course, *"Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious."*

Mark your calendars now for July 16-21 for Upper Room Theatre's production! Experience the magic of Mary Poppins, who teaches us that *"anything can happen if you let it."*

Tickets are available at UpperRoomTickets.com.

Calling All College Students: GMU CCM Thursday Night Gatherings!

Every Thursday in June and July (except July 4!) all college students on summer break and graduating high school seniors are invited to the George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry in Fairfax (4515 Roberts Road) for Summer Gatherings beginning at 6:30pm. There will be food and games and you'll meet other students, discuss how to "keep the faith" in college, and make friends from your own or other colleges who reside in the area. Wear your college gear! For more information contact Kristen Juda: kjuda@gmu.edu or visit our Facebook page: College Summers with GMU CCM.

Light the World! is a Summer Institute that takes place at The Catholic University of America. Rising Juniors and Seniors are invited to join us either June 23-29 or July 7-13 as we explore how our faith is lived within the fields and careers of Art, Science, Sport, Business, and Politics. Visit *lightheworldcua.org* for more information and application materials.

Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School is excited to announce their 2019 SUMMER CAMPS!

Whether you're looking for an enrichment and leadership experience or a sports program for your child, the John Paul Summer Camps are full of opportunities for children in grades 2 through 12. Have questions? Contact *camps@jpthegreat.org* or 703-445-0300. Camp descriptions and registration information at: *www.jpthegreat.org/student-life/summer-activities*

COLLEGE MINISTRY and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Contact Director: Alison Fram
afram@nativityburke.org, cell: 703-577-5329
Find us on the parish website: nativityburke.org

Young Adult Ministry
Serving people ages 21-39

Facebook Group - "Catholic Life Young Adult Ministry"
Instagram - @nativityyam

Weekly:
Tuesdays 7:30pm - Discovering Christ for YA Ministry

Service Opportunities - Coming soon… a summer service mission

"Catholic Conversations" - A Q&A with Fr. Vaccaro Tuesday, July 2 from 7:30-9:00pm, Fr. Ready Room

YA Family Ministry - Meeting on Saturday, July 20 from 9:00-10:30am, Fr. Ready Room

Serve as a liturgical minister! Let us know if you'd like to be a lector, EM, usher, greeter, etc.

See our full list of upcoming events: nativityburke.org/youngadult

COLLEGE MINISTRY
Serving people ages 18 - 21

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook Group - Nativity College Ministry
Instagram - @nativitycollege

See our full list of upcoming events: nativityburke.org/college
Service Opportunities: Summer Lunch Bunch for kids (July 24) - serve lunch in a local park to food-insecure children. RSVP to Alison to sign up to serve! Volunteer with Nativity's Vacation Bible Camp (June 24-28), support Stella Marina kit build (July 13-14)

#SleepTillNoonMass - Go to Noon Mass together on Tuesdays and Thursdays, then out for lunch or coffee. Let Alison know if you'll be there.

For Rising Freshmen, College Night with ASJB - July 17, 7:00-9:00pm at Basilica of St. Mary's (Fr. Vaccaro is a speaker!) Must rsvp in advance to attend!

How to share your faith: a Training with Fr. Chris Vaccaro, Chaplain at UMW-July 31 from 7:00-9:00pm at Nativity

College Mission Trip to Jamaica - July 8-12, 2019. Pray for us!

YOUTH MINISTRY
Serving students in Grades 6 thru 12

For Complete Information
nativityburke.org/cym

High School (HS) - Weekly
- Sundays LifeTEEN - 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm Ministry
- Thursdays Boys Small Group - 7:00pm

Middle School (MS) - Grades 6, 7, and 8
Sundays - EDGE - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Seasonal
-One Act Theater Ministry - Winter - MS& HS
-RALLY - Diocesan HS Event - Fall
-BASH - Diocesan MS Event - Spring
-Trunk or Treat - Fall (Family Event)
-Life Is VERY Good - Diocesan HS Event -Winter
-Living Stations of the Cross - 8th and HS - Lent

Summer of Service
- HS Summer Mission July 21-28 (registration closed)
- Vacation Bible Camp - June 25-28, 2019
CampEDGE - Grades 5, 6 and 7, June 25-27. 2019
- Volunteers Grades 8-12 and ages 18-99

Follow Us nativitycym

CampEDGE June 25, 26, 27
Current Grades 5-6-7
VBC June 25, 26, 27, 28
Current Grades PreK-4

Visit: https://nativityburke.org/cym/summercamps/ For more information!
ONLINE Registration NOW OPEN

Find out what's going on in Youth Ministry
Get the Weekly CYM Instant UPdate!

Send Email to Ms. Ingrid ingridss@nativityburke.org
-Include Child's Name, School, Grade and Birthdate, Cell
-Parent/Guardian names, cell numbers, emails

CORPUS CHRISTI ¡Caminar, edificar y confesar! Javier Leoz

1.Estas tres palabras; caminar, edificar y confesar…salieron de los labios del Papa Francisco en su primera homilía poco después de ser elegido. En este Año de la Fe, en este marco de la festividad del Corpus Christi, nos centran perfectamente en el Misterio de la Eucaristía que hoy celebramos.

Hemos caminado con Jesús, desde el día de su nacimiento en Belén; hemos intentado edificar nuestra vida con sus palabras y con su presencia, con sus milagros y con sus indicaciones. ¿Y ahora? Ahora, en este día del Corpus confesamos o proclamamos a los cuatro vientos que, nuestra intimidad, nuestro secreto más escondido tiene un nombre: Eucaristía. No podemos acallarlo y, en custodia de metal precioso -pero sobre todo en aquellas otras que son de carne y de hueso (nosotros)- es donde el Señor se muestra más a las claras ante un mundo sediento de gestos, cariño, amor, perdón y buenas noticias. Tal vez hoy, muchos ojos se quedarán perplejos ante el paso de numerosos cortejos procesionales, porque hace tiempo que dejaron de caminar, edificar y confesar su fe. Tal vez hasta se preguntarán ¿Y esto…qué es?

El regalo que el Señor nos dejó en Jueves Santo, inclinándose para buscar los pies de los discípulos, y entregándoles la Eucaristía, hoy lo hacemos público y mensaje activo. Si en Jueves Santo, fue el Señor, quien se arrodilló nuestra humanidad sedienta de amor, hoy somos nosotros quien nos postramos para reconocer ante Él que, Él, es la fuente de nuestro amor y de nuestra alegría y que sin Él, nuestro compromiso cristiano, sería eso: un gesto humano pero sin inspiración divina.

2.En el día del Corpus Christi, el amor, se canta, se expresa y se adorna. Porque, el amor, también hay que cuidarlo con pequeños detalles. Y la historia de la fe cristiana, desde hace siglos, ha tenido necesidad de regalar al "AMOR DE AMORES" signos que delatasen que, el pueblo cristiano, se edifica y camina mejor cuando la Eucaristía se coloca en el centro de su existencia.

El Santo Cura de Ars llegó a decir que, un pueblo sin sacerdote, acaba adorando a las bestias. En este día del Corpus, vemos a las claras, que un mundo sin amor divino se convierte en un atropello a los más débiles. Que un cristiano sin eucaristía dominical, acaba sucumbiendo, disipado y confundido ante otros dioses en forma de balón, playa, monte o fin de semana sin referencia a Dios. Que un cristiano, sin misa, acaba viviendo como lo que practica: vacío de Dios.

En el día del Corpus Christi, y por ser el día de la Caridad, nos damos cuenta que es mucho lo que nos queda por avanzar en cuestiones de justicia y de atención hacia los demás, hacia los más pobres. En la coyuntura social, económica y política que nos encontramos –esta solemnidad- nos viene muy bien para poner las cosas en su sitio: nadie como Jesús para entregarse y, nadie como los cristianos, a la hora de ejercer la caridad como un distintivo de lo que somos y decimos creer. Cáritas, qué duda cabe, es un fiel reflejo de todo ello.

El Corpus Christi pone sobre la mesa de las calles del mundo una realidad: Cristo camina, para que caminemos con Él. Cristo se da, para que nosotros nos demos con Él y desde Él. Cristo es aclamado y agasajado (envuelto en pétalos, incienso, desfiles, música y arte) para que no olvidemos que, la fe, también es belleza y que, esa beldad, es lo que hemos de llevar y cuidar luego en el corazón de cada uno.

3.En este Año de la Fe, el Señor quiere que, nosotros, seamos las más valiosas y auténticas custodias de su amor allá donde nos encontremos. No podemos conformarnos con acompañar a Jesús, en el día del Corpus, y a continuación, encerrarle –sin más trascendencia- en la conciencia de cada uno.

Este año, la festividad del Corpus, nos debe de interpelar: ¿Qué hago yo por el Señor? ¿Manifiesto públicamente mis convicciones religiosas? ¿Son mis acciones y mis palabras destellos de que Dios vive en mí? ¿Soy custodia, que cuando se contempla, infunde caridad, cercanía, compromiso, justicia, paz, etc?

NO DEJES DE SALIR…SEÑOR
Porque, sin Ti, el mundo se enfría
y son otros los que, sin Ti, les dan un engañoso calor
Porque, sin Ti, el hombre se envilece
y convertimos este viejo paraíso en contienda entre el bien y el mal.
Porque, sin Ti, olvidamos que el amor es fuente de felicidad
y buscamos, en lo efímero, una alegría que es simple disfraz.
Porque, sin Ti, nuestra tierra es huérfana
vacía de sentimientos y exenta de esperanza.
No dejes de salir, ni un solo año, Señor:
Porque seguimos necesitando tu pan multiplicado
para saciarnos y, luego, repartirlo a los hermanos
Porque somos tan débiles como ayer
y, al contemplarte, queremos recuperar la fuerza del creer
Porque, nuestros pecados, pueden a veces con la virtud
y, en esos pecados, viene escondido aquello que no es luz.
Porque, nuestras almas, se llenan de trastos inservibles
no permitiendo que, Tú, habites y reines en nuestro interior.
No dejes de salir, en el Corpus, Señor:
Y, si ves que me nos he alejado de ti,
que seas un imán que nos atraigas hacia la fuente de la verdad
Y, si ves que te hemos dado la espalda,
alcánzanos de frente para nunca más olvidarte
Y, si ves que hemos perdido el apetito de lo divino,
acércanos el cáliz de tu amor y de tu perdón.
Sí, Señor; ¡no dejes de salir en custodia!

Deja, que nos arrodillemos ante Ti
al igual que, Tú, lo hiciste ante nosotros en Jueves Santo
Consiente, que te hablemos al corazón de la Custodia
al igual que, Tú, lo hiciste en cada uno de los nuestros
Que presentemos al mundo este manjar
con la misma pasión y fuerza,
con la que Tú, nos lo dejaste en sencilla mesa
De, que nos miremos los unos a los otros
para cantar contemplando este Misterio.
¡No dejes de salir, Señor!
Que nadie ocupe el lugar que te corresponde en el mundo
Que nadie turbe la paz y la calma del día del Corpus
Que nadie, creyéndose rey, se sienta más importante
que Aquel otro, que siéndolo, se hace una vez más siervo.
¡No dejes de salir, Señor!
Aquí tienes nuestros corazones: haz de ellos una patena
Aquí tienes nuestras mentes: haz de ellas un altavoz
Aquí tienes nuestras manos: haz de ellas una carroza
Aquí tienes nuestros ojos: haz de ellos dos diamantes
Aquí tienes nuestras almas: haz de ellas el oro de tu custodia
Aquí tienes nuestros cuerpos: haz de ellos las más auténticas
custodias que nunca se cansen de anunciar por todo el mundo
que sigues viviendo y permaneciendo eternamente presente
en el gran milagro de la EUCARISTIA.
¡No dejes de salir, Señor!
¿Nos dejas acompañarte?
En este Año de la Fe: Creemos en ti, esperamos en ti y queremos vivir en ti

¿Por qué la fiesta de Corpus Christi?
El Papa Benedicto XVI explica así la historia de esta fiesta, que remonta al siglo XIII
Por: S.S. Benedicto XVI | Fuente: PrimerosCristianos.com

La solemnidad del Corpus Christi tuvo origen en un contexto cultural e histórico determinado: nació con el objetivo de reafirmar abiertamente la fe del Pueblo de Dios en Jesucristo vivo y realmente presente en el santísimo sacramento de la Eucaristía".
Santa Juliana de Cornillón tuvo una vision que "presentaba la luna en su pleno esplendor, con una franja oscura que la atravesaba diametralmente. El Señor le hizo comprender el significado de lo que se le había aparecido. La luna simbolizaba la vida de la Iglesia sobre la tierra; la línea opaca representaba, en cambio, la ausencia de una fiesta litúrgica(…) en la que los creyentes pudieran adorar la Eucaristía para aumentar su fe, avanzar en la práctica de las virtudes y reparar las ofensas al Santísimo Sacramento (…).
La buena causa de la fiesta del Corpus Christi conquistó también a Santiago Pantaleón de Troyes, que había conocido a la santa durante su ministerio de archidiácono en Lieja. Fue precisamente él quien, al convertirse en Papa con el nombre de Urbano IV, en 1264 quiso instituir la solemnidad del Corpus Christi como fiesta de precepto para la Iglesia universal, el jueves sucesivo a Pentecostés.
Hasta el fin del mundo
En la bula de institución, titulada Transiturus de hoc mundo (11 de agosto de 1264) el Papa Urbano alude con discreción también a las experiencias místicas de Juliana, avalando su autenticidad, y escribe: «Aunque cada día se celebra solemnemente la Eucaristía, consideramos justo que, al menos una vez al año, se haga memoria de ella con mayor honor y solemnidad. De hecho, las otras cosas de las que hacemos memoria las aferramos con el espíritu y con la mente, pero no obtenemos por esto su presencia real. En cambio, en esta conmemoración sacramental de Cristo, aunque bajo otra forma, Jesucristo está presente con nosotros en la propia sustancia. De hecho, cuando estaba a punto de subir al cielo dijo: "He aquí que yo estoy con vosotros todos los días hasta el fin del mundo" (Mt 28, 20)».

El Pontífice mismo quiso dar ejemplo, celebrando la solemnidad del Corpus Christi en Orvieto, ciudad en la que vivía entonces. Precisamente por orden suya, en la catedral de la ciudad se conservaba —y todavía se conserva— el célebre corporal con las huellas del milagro eucarístico acontecido el año anterior, en 1263, en Bolsena.
Un sacerdote, mientras consagraba el pan y el vino, fue asaltado por serias dudas sobre la presencia real del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo en el sacramento de la Eucaristía. Milagrosamente algunas gotas de sangre comenzaron a brotar de la Hostia consagrada, confirmando de ese modo lo que nuestra fe profesa.
Textos que remueven
Urbano IV pidió a uno de los mayores teólogos de la historia, santo Tomás de Aquino —que en aquel tiempo acompañaba al Papa y se encontraba en Orvieto—, que compusiera los textos del oficio litúrgico de esta gran fiesta. Esos textos, que todavía hoy se siguen usando en la Iglesia (himno Adorote Devote), son obras maestras, en las cuales se funden teología y poesía. Son textos que hacen vibrar las cuerdas del corazón para expresar alabanza y gratitud al Santísimo Sacramento, mientras la inteligencia, adentrándose con estupor en el misterio, reconoce en la Eucaristía la presencia viva y verdadera de Jesús, de su sacrificio de amor que nos reconcilia con el Padre, y nos da la salvación.(…)
Una «primavera eucarística»

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Quiero afirmar con alegría que la Iglesia vive hoyuna «primavera eucarística»: ¡Cuántas personas se detienen en silencio ante el Sagrario para entablar una conversación de amor con Jesús! Es consolador saber que no pocos grupos de jóvenes han redescubierto la belleza de orar en adoración delante del Santísimo Sacramento. Pienso, por ejemplo, en nuestra adoración eucarística en Hyde Park, en Londres. Pido para que esta «primavera eucarística» se extienda cada vez más en todas las parroquias, especialmente en Bélgica, la patria de santa Juliana. El venerable Juan Pablo II, en la encíclica Ecclesia de Eucharistia, constataba que «en muchos lugares (…) la adoración del Santísimo Sacramento tiene diariamente una importancia destacada y se convierte en fuente inagotable desantidad. La participación fervorosa de los fieles en la procesión eucarística en la solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo es una gracia del Señor, que cada año llena de gozo a quienes participan en ella. Y se podrían mencionar otros signos positivos de fe y amor eucarístico» (n. 10).
Recordando a santa Juliana de Cornillón, renovemos también nosotros la fe en la presencia real de Cristo en la Eucaristía. Como nos enseña el Compendio del Catecismo de la Iglesia católica, «Jesucristo está presente en la Eucaristía de modo único e incomparable. Está presente, en efecto, de modo verdadero, real y sustancial: con su Cuerpo y con su Sangre, con su alma y su divinidad. Cristo, todo entero, Dios y hombre, está presente en ella de manera sacramental, es decir, bajo las especies eucarísticas del pan y del vino» (n. 282).
Queridos amigos, la fidelidad al encuentro con Cristo Eucarístico en la santa misa dominical es esencial para el camino de fe, pero también tratemos de ir con frecuencia a visitar al Señor presente en el Sagrario. Mirando en adoración la Hostia consagrada encontramos el don del amor de Dios, encontramos la pasión y la cruz de Jesús, al igual que su resurrección.
Fuente de alegría

Precisamente a través de nuestro mirar en adoración, el Señor nos atrae hacia sí, dentro de su misterio, para transformarnos como transforma el pan y el vino. Los santos siempre han encontrado fuerza, consolación y alegría en el encuentro eucarístico. Con las palabras del himno eucarístico Adoro te devote repitamos delante del Señor, presente en el Santísimo Sacramento: «Haz que crea cada vez más en ti, que en ti espere, que te ame». Gracias.

BENEDICTO XVI, Audiencia general, 17 de noviembre de 2010