

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – August 4, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am hoping you had the opportunity to view some, if not all, of the Eucharistic Congress. It was a wonderful experience of joy, faith, and hope for the future. To hear personal testimonies of the power of the Eucharist in people's lives was truly faith enriching. There are so many talks that I could recommend, but I highly recommend listening to the talk from Sr. Olga — truly enriching, uplifting, and inspirational. Let us continue to come to Christ in the Eucharist. Let us sit with him and tell him about ourselves, and about our lives. Then let us allow Christ to feed us with His Body and Blood, food to nourish us and strengthen us for the journey.

### **'It's crying time again; you're going to leave me.'**

Well crying might be a push, but I am going to miss the company of our seminarian, Tommy Gorman. Tommy finishes with us on Friday, August 9. He must be back in the seminary for August 11. I want to thank Tommy for spending the summer with us and I hope it was enlightening, uplifting, and educational. But more importantly, he was able to experience the love and friendship of you, the great and wonderful parishioners of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. Tommy has a deep love and concern for the most vulnerable of God's people. I know he has touched the hearts of many in our parish. Let us continue to pray for Tommy, and for all our seminarians. May God, who called them, continue to speak to their hearts. May Christ, who guides them, continue to guide them. May the Holy Spirit, who fills them with courage, continue to fill them with courage. And, may the love of the Blessed Mother console them and reassure them, as she did her Son, when they are feeling weary, weak, and overwhelmed. May they always listen to the words Mary spoke to the servants at the wedding of Cana; 'Do whatever he tells you!'

### **Vacation Bible School**

Blessings on all our young members who will be experiencing Vacation Bible School this week. May their hearts be open to the gift of the Holy Spirit. May they experience the deep love the Father has for them, and may they go home knowing Jesus is their forever friend. A big shout out to all our volunteers, especially our incoming 8th Graders. Thank you for being here with us. May this be a truly special week for you too. And finally, a BIG thank you goes to Margaret Zola for all her hard work in preparing for this week. Let me just say, long hours were spent in preparation. We are so blessed and so very lucky to have someone who cares so much for the faith of all our young people.

### **John 6:30-35**

So, they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." So, Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." So, they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Have a blessed and wonderful week.

*Fr. Martin*