

Dear Friends in Christ: May the peace, joy and hope of Jesus be with you all!



Every week Fr. Vinner and/or I will be writing an article for the bulletin. Hopefully it will be something that assists us in the building up of our faith. The plan then is that both of us at least for a while will share a bit of our thoughts or perspectives with you so that you can get to know us a little better.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons, a Father of the Church from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century is often referenced with this quotation: “The glory of God is the human person fully alive! (*Gloria Dei vivens homo*” in lingua Latina). When we’re fully alive, we give God glory. Another way of understanding this phrase is that God’s glory is revealed when we are fully the persons that God meant us to be. God’s glory is a bit of a complicated concept. Here is a recent comment by our Holy Father on what God’s glory is. “The glory of God is not manifested with fanfare and applause but displayed through the love of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross”, Pope Francis said.

“True glory is the glory of love because that is the only kind that gives life to the world. Of course, this glory is the opposite of worldly glory, which comes when one is admired, praised, acclaimed: when I am at the center of attention,” the pope said April 17 during his weekly general audience” (**Crux** website, April 17, 2019).

Thus, when we love, giving of ourselves for another’s benefit, we partner with God in giving life to others, even if it involves sacrifice. Christ’s cross teaches us that. Our culture, on the other hand, puts the individual at the center of existence. Sacrificial love, i.e. being willing to give for the good of another, even at great cost, is raised as the deepest understanding of what love is, even the deepest understanding of what a human person is.

To circle back to St. Irenaeus, the human being who loves reveals, the love that comes from God to us. That is our end, our purpose, i.e. our *telos* as being human beings: welcoming God’s love ourselves and offering God’s love to others, to give away what we have received. That gives God glory!

May you be strengthened this week by Jesus’ great love in the Eucharist so that you might be Eucharist with and for others.

In God’s great love, hope, and mercy,

Deacon Jim