

Dear Brothers and Sisters



We had the joy of celebrating, IN PERSON, the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday Sept 12th, and this weekend Saturday Sept 19th, we celebrated, IN PERSON, First Holy Communion with our Second Graders.

For many of the families it was the first time they had been in Church since the beginning of the pandemic.

The joy of being able to celebrate IN PERSON was palpable.

Some people cried as they received Holy Communion for the first time in months.

Although we have been live-streaming Mass, it is without doubt that this can never equate with physically celebrating with one another.

A marriage could not survive if it existed only virtually. Grandchildren need to be hugged by their Grandparents, not see them on a computer. Distanced learning is possible via Zoom, but this, as everyone has realized, will never be the same as actually being in school.

Technology purports to bridge the gap of physical distance; but it actually makes us more distant from one another.

Did you know there are nine Congregations in the Roman Curia? They are commissioned to take care of some field of activity in the Church, e.g., the Congregation for the Clergy, the Congregation for Evangelization, the Congregation for Catholic Education.

Last week, Cardinal Robert Sarah, the Prefect for the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, sent a text to all the world's conferences of Catholic bishops. Pope Francis approved its publication.

The text, entitled "Let us return to the Eucharist with joy" says, in part....

"As soon as circumstances permit, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the Eucharist as the summit towards which the activity of the Church of directed...

No broadcast is equivalent to personal participation or can replace it at Mass...

On the contrary, these broadcasts alone risk distancing us from a personal and intimate encounter with the incarnate God who gave himself to us not in a virtual way, but really...

Due attention to hygiene and safety regulations cannot lead to the sterilization of gestures and rites, to the instilling, even unconsciously, of fear and insecurity in the faithful."

I look forward to seeing you, (in person), soon.

Fr. Sean