

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Thank
you



Thanksgiving Day is my favorite of all the secular American holidays. It is a day for family, and a day to give thanks. We were brought up to say 'Please' and 'Thank you', but those words are diminishing in common usage.

It's not that it was any better in the past

In the Gospel reading which will be proclaimed at Mass this coming Thursday November 22nd, Thanksgiving Day, we will hear a man who says 'Thank you' to Jesus.

This is the only time in the Gospels that someone says 'thank you' to him.

2000 years ago, the words 'Thank you' were only heard once by the Savior.

Many asked him for things – to be healed, to be fed, to be saved, others asked how to pray, others told him how he should act, yet others asked theological questions, or wanted to debate with him. But only one person ever said 'Thank you'.

We are perhaps not much different. When was the last time we thanked our spouse, children, parents, classmates, work colleagues, or fellow parishioners?

I include myself in this mea culpa.

But not today.

I want to thank you, each one of you, for being a part of my family here at Our Lady Mother of the Church.

I thank you for volunteering - as ministers of the Word and the Eucharist, for bringing the sacrament to the sick, for being Altar servers, for teaching Faith Formation classes, for making coffee and picking up donuts on Sunday, for singing in the choir, for decorating and cleaning the church, for working on the Finance council, for counting the collection and bringing it to the bank, for planning and making ministers schedules, for volunteering on the Outreach Committee, for praying the Rosary after Mass, for changing light bulbs, for fixing sinks, for planting shrubs and flowers, for taking up the collection, for building patios and ramps, for painting the parking lot, for volunteering with Special Olympics, for leading children's Liturgy of the Word, for organizing social events, for handing out bulletins, for collecting for the needy, for feeding the homeless, for reading the Bible in groups at home, for putting up tents and tables and chairs, for baking cakes to celebrate our monthly birthdays, for bringing crying babies to Mass,

I thank the staff who work here with me; I thank them for all that they do behind the scenes.

I thank all of you for coming to the Liturgy here, for choosing to be here and not somewhere else. I thank you for the enormous generosity of your financial support of this parish.

Thank you for being who you are, and for sharing that with me, and with the other members of our parish community.

Happy Thanksgiving

Fr. Sean