



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am so excited that we are able to have public Mass again! I am writing this early in the week, and I don't know if we will be able to pull it off this weekend, but knowing that it will happen soon is a great **joy!**

As we celebrate Trinity Sunday this weekend, we celebrate that God is *community*. God – as God – is not God in isolation, but from all eternity has been a family, a community of love – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When God made us, He made us in His image and likeness (see Genesis 1:26-27), which means that we were made for love, for community, for communion.

While there is incredible merit in the Mass, whether celebrated with others or without (St. Padre Pio said “**It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass**”), still, the Mass is meant to be communion of us with God and with each other.

The Mass is Trinitarian at its root. The Mass is where Jesus, the great high priest, offers His sacrifice on the Cross to His eternal Father. This sacrifice that He offered 2000 years ago was lifted into eternity, and at each Mass is brought into *this time* and *this place* – June 7, 2020 Pelham, New Hampshire. We have the opportunity to enter into this offering **to the Father with Jesus**. He is the One offering it, but we get to be with Him and the whole Church (all the Angels and Saints, too). This is made possible **in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit**, for it is the Holy Spirit that unites us to the Jesus in this offering to the Father.

In Holy Communion, we are asked not only to come forward in some sort of “food rite,” symbolic of joining people together, but in an actual *communion* – an intimate union – with God Himself. As we receive Communion, **we become Jesus**, offering His sacrifice to the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Wow!

I hope that we truly enter into this mystery with holy awe! I encourage you to watch “The Veil Removed” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTgIaM>). In this seven-minute video, we see behind the veil what is really happening mystically in the Mass. Unless we have a sense of who God really is and what is really happening in the Mass, we may fall into the trap of going back to Mass as part of habit. Oh, may this never happen!!!

The Gospel today is a famous one from John: “**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life**” (John 3:16 NABRE). His *great love* is calling us deeper into that relationship – into the family relationship of the Trinity. And we are brothers and sisters in this family. We get to Heaven together, not on our own! We need each other.

As we come back to celebrate the incredible gift of the Mass – not virtually or privately – but *together* as family, may we be mindful of the incredible love God has for us, return that love to Him, and share that love with each other.