



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You've heard me announce several times about the "**Made for More**" event coming up on **Tuesday, May 9th** from 7:00-9:30pm (tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through the office or online at M4MNH.eventbrite.com and you can watch a trailer: vimeo.com/260114539). International speaker and author Dr. Christopher West and award-winning musician Mike Mangione will lead us through an evening of visual beauty, live music and reflection.

This event is meant to help us reconnect with the deepest longings of our hearts, which cry out for more than this world can give. We heard last weekend about the thirst of the Samaritan woman, and we know this thirst for more is rooted deeply in each of our souls... we want *more!* We were made for God and only He can satisfy this thirst!

At the heart of this event will be a look at Christian Anthropology – Who are we? How do we look at our humanity in the light of God? We will be assisted by the incredible teaching of St. John Paul II and his Theology of the Body. (If you've heard of the Theology of the Body before, you might think this is just a "chastity talk.") The Theology of the Body is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian – that God entered our humanity in a body. *This changed everything!*

Look at this weekend's Gospel. We hear about the man born blind and how Almighty God chooses to heal him. Isn't it amazing?! As much as God cares about our eternal life, He doesn't just care about our souls – He cares about our bodies as well. And this encounter with Jesus is a bodily encounter, a very visceral experience. Jesus *spits* on the ground and makes clay from that spit, smearing it on the man's eyes. SPIT-CLAY. That's something we should not have expected. But God didn't just make our souls, but our bodies as well, and our bodies tell a story, our bodies reflect the goodness of Almighty God. Our bodies – even our spit – become ways of encountering God (please, don't use this as permission to spit on someone, though).

St. John Paul says, "The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It has been created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden from eternity in God, and thus to be a sign of it" (*Theology of the Body 19:4*). Our bodies reveal the invisible reality of our souls and they reveal something about God. We encounter God through our bodies.

This is the whole point of the Sacraments. Remember that a sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. These outward signs which give us grace are bodily ways we encounter relationship with God. Our bodies are not incidental to our relationship with God. They are not incidental to our salvation. God chose to create humanity as both bodily and spiritual creatures, to redeem us in the body through the Incarnation (when God became man), and He died and rose in the body to show us that our bodies are how we encounter God's love, our bodies tell a story.

I invite everyone who is ready to ponder the questions "Who am I, what am I, and where am I going" to come to this event. As Mike Mangione says, "This event is for married, single, celibate, Catholic, non-Catholic, devout, skeptic, youth and ... experienced." Please join us. Invite friends, family and neighbors. This is going to be an incredible evening at our parish, unlike anything we've had before. You don't want to miss it!