

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

Many suburban Catholics are familiar with Loyola because of the university downtown. The actual Saint Ignatius of Loyola was the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He was a Spanish soldier who, having been injured, experienced a conversion during convalescence. His Spiritual Exercises are the origin of Ignatian Spirituality. His Suscipe prayer is a beautiful expression of a soul deeply united to God.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

Last weekend, I preached at all the Masses about centering our lives as individuals, families, and a parish on Jesus Christ. The prayerful words of Saint Ignatius inspire us to a deeper understanding of centering ourselves on Christ. Our Lord must be the origin, inspiration, and reason for all our actions, behaviors, and choices.

We do not lose our freedom when we give up all for Christ. Rather, we receive from Him the blessing and grace of His love for us. Simply, the human experience of feeling the pain of sacrifice and self-denial is redeemed and transformed by grace as a deeper conformity to the life of Jesus.

Every time we receive Holy Communion in a worthy manner, that is, free from mortal sin, we are inviting divinity into our humanity. With this profound gift in mind, we should prepare ourselves before receiving Holy Communion to be interiorly hospitable to God. That way, our souls become a “living tabernacle” for the Blessed Sacrament we receive and consume.

Our individual, interior hospitality will be mirrored, in time, by an exterior hospitality as a parish. The alignment between our interior and exterior Eucharistic hospitality follows the ancient teaching, *lex orandi lex credendi*, “how we pray should reflect what we believe.” We intentionally place the Eucharistic Lord at the center of our lives as we continue to devote ourselves to the revival of belief, adoration, and reverence.