

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is so good to be back with you after my pilgrimage to France and to begin this month of October together as we dive deeper into our understanding of the Mass. I have been looking forward to this for quite some time. In France, I was blessed to visit many beautiful shrines and churches and to learn more about the lives of the saints—St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Bernadette, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and St. Catherine Labouré. At each of these holy sites—whether it was the grotto where Our Blessed Mother appeared to young Bernadette or the chapel where Jesus revealed His Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary—I was deeply grateful to stand in a place where heaven touched the earth. These are places where God revealed Himself in a unique way to His people. It is no wonder that hundreds of thousands of pilgrims visit them each year: they long to be where God has made Himself present and continues to do so to this day.

But without question, the most important thing we did on this pilgrimage was to celebrate the Holy Mass each day in those sacred places. As moving as it was to stand where the saints once stood, it did not compare to offering the very sacrifice of Christ on those altars. The Mass is always the greatest treasure, no matter where it is celebrated, because it is the central act of worship that brings heaven and earth together.

On the pilgrimage, one fellow pilgrim made a remark that goes straight to the heart of why we go to Mass every Sunday. She said: *“God has done so much for us. He died for us on the Cross, and what do we give Him in return?”* Her words point us to a most essential truth of our Catholic faith: worship is our response to the infinite love and sacrifice of God. Christ has given everything for us—His very life. What can we possibly offer in return except our entire selves in worship?

And this brings me to a truth that I think has sadly been forgotten by many Catholics: we are made for worship. To worship God at Mass is not something extra or optional—it is written into the very fabric of our being. Every human heart longs to give itself to something greater, to adore something beyond itself. This is why, if we do not worship God, we inevitably end up worshipping something else—money, success, comfort, power, or even ourselves (a sad reality of the culture in which we live). But only in worship of the living God do we find our true fulfillment, because only He is worthy of our adoration. As St. Francis de Sales once said: *“The Mass is the most perfect act of adoration we can offer to God.”*

At the same time, worship is also a matter of justice. Justice means giving to someone what is rightfully theirs. God created us, sustains us at every moment, and redeemed us through the Cross of His Son. He holds our very lives in His hands. What, then, do we owe Him? Everything. Our worship, our thanksgiving, and our praise. When we gather at Mass, we are not just attending a service—we are fulfilling the most fundamental duty of our lives: to worship our Creator and Redeemer.

This is why the Mass is not primarily about the homily, the music, or even about what we “get out of it.” Those things may help us, but they are not the reason we come. We come because God deserves our worship. At Mass, we are caught up into something far greater than ourselves—heavenly worship with all the angels and saints before the throne of God. It is the eternal song of *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* that never ceases in heaven, and we are blessed to join in it here on earth.

When we see the Mass in this light, it is no longer a weekly obligation to be endured but a privilege to be embraced. The Mass is always about God first and not ourselves. It is about giving Him His due, and in doing so, discovering the deepest joy of our souls.

This month, as we reflect more deeply on the mystery of the Mass, I invite you to rediscover why we are here to begin with: to worship the living God, who alone is worthy of all our praise. I am eager to deepen my own understanding of the Mass and look forward to doing so with you.

Have a blessed week!

In Christ,
Fr. Bobby