

around the altar to meet with the Crucified and Risen Lord, truly present in the gift of the Sacrament.



I call on you to extend this invitation to those whom you know who have not yet returned to the parish community. Extend this invitation to those who have found themselves searching for God during this time of pandemic, for we are at a moment of evangelisation: the Lord calls us to action.

The experience of the last year, with its many deep sufferings, calls us to rely on the One who brings us healing and wholeness - a healing and wholeness that we find in the Eucharist. "No other Sacrament" St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us, "has greater healing power."⁴ In the Eucharist, there is healing for ourselves, for our communities, for the world.

The Eucharist is a gift so amazing that our faltering human language cannot grasp its wonder. The Lord gives us His very Self as the food for our pilgrimage of life. It is the Lord who sustains us, not simply as individuals but as a community, for the work He has given us to do. Our present circumstances call us to remain faithful to this greatest of all celebrations, for the Eucharist is the source from which our lives are fulfilled. It is the moment from which the Lord sends us out on the Mission to which He has called us. How can we stay away?

With every Blessing,

+Richard

⁴ St. THOMAS AQUINAS, On the Feast of Corpus Christi.