What is Happening in Our Church?
A Letter from Monsignor Manuel Simas

This Sunday’s Gospel is especially challenging. Is Jesus really instructing us not to love our families? Of course He isn’t!

St. Augustine interprets Jesus’ remarks about building towers and marching into battle, and the harsh admonition that begins the Gospel passage, as Jesus advising us to be sure that we are willing to follow through when we declare that we are his followers. There is an old saying that how we spend our time, talent and money speaks more truly about what is important to us than do our words. How important is our relationship with God, and do our actions bear this out?

St. Augustine concludes that if “love” for parents, or anyone or anything else, is such that it leads us to abandon or betray our relationship with God, then we risk losing everyone/everything in eternity. We must therefore be willing to reject any relationship - with people or with things - if it gets in the way of following Jesus. What we should be aiming for, says Augustine, is what we read in the Acts of the Apostles about the early Christian community: “They had one heart and one soul toward God” (Acts 4:32-33).

St. Paul’s Letter to Philemon provides us with additional guidance. Paul points out the importance of giving of ourselves voluntarily, “so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.” Paul also instructs us to treat all those that we encounter in the same manner as we would a close friend or family member.

We have two very special opportunities to put today’s Gospel lesson and St. Paul’s advice into practice.

Join me at our parish picnic on Saturday, September 18th. There will be great food and drink, games and entertainment - something for everyone to enjoy! Come, and get to know your fellow parishioners better. Show that you believe that our parish community is important by spending quality time together.

And plan now to spend extra time after Mass on Ministry Sunday (date change to be announced). Learn how you can follow Jesus by giving of your time and talent through participation in a parish ministry. Representatives from all of our ministries will be present to answer questions and sign-up new recruits!

Please reserve the time for our parish picnic on September 18th and our upcoming Ministry Sunday as “St. Joseph Days.” I can’t think of better ways to “build Church” than by gathering together as a parish family and joining a parish ministry.

Peace and love,

Father Manny

Monsignor Manuel Simas
Environment for Catholic Worship
Part 5 Reservation of the Eucharist, cont.

Reservation of the Eucharist

The reservation of the Eucharist was originally intended for the communion of the sick, for those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, and as Viaticum for the dying. (CIC) As the appreciation of Christ’s presence in the eucharistic species became more developed, Christians desired through prayer to show reverence for Christ’s continuing presence in their midst. [70]

The Code of Canon Law directs that the Eucharist be reserved in a part of the church that is “distinguished, conspicuous, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer.” It directs that regularly there be “only one tabernacle” in the church. It should be worthy of the Blessed Sacrament—beautifully designed and in harmony with the overall decor of the rest of the church.

To provide for the security of the Blessed Sacrament the tabernacle should be “solid,” “immovable,” “opaque,” and “locked.” The tabernacle may be situated on a fixed pillar or stand, or it may be attached to or embedded in one of the walls. A special oil lamp or a lamp with a wax candle burns continuously near the tabernacle as an indication of Christ’s presence. [72]

There are a number of possible spaces suitable for eucharistic reservation. The revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal states that it is more appropriate that the tabernacle in which the “Blessed Sacrament is reserved not be on the altar on which Mass is celebrated.” The bishop is to determine where the tabernacle will be placed and to give further direction. The bishop may decide that the tabernacle be placed in the sanctuary apart from the altar of celebration or in a separate chapel suitable for adoration and for the private prayer of the faithful. In making his determination, the bishop will consider the importance of the assembly’s ability to focus on the eucharistic action, the piety of the people, and the custom of the area. The location also should allow for easy access by people in wheelchairs and by those who have other disabilities. [74]

From the Coordinating Committee

Communication is a key element in the success of any group effort.

The Coordinating Committee will be issuing this newsletter as a regular insert into the bulletin and other church mailers to keep the parish at large informed on the progress of our project.

- Monsignor Manuel Simas
- Father Joseph Nguyen
- Ashley Weerpass
- Matthew Au
- Don Kaefter
- Lauri Kaefter
- Tony Mirenda
- Jim Petersen
- Cris Raimundo
- Debbie Rossetto
- Hung Tran
- Bill Utic

Look for each issue of the TBC Times to give you the latest update on how we are doing, what we are doing, and what more is to come as we rebuild our church together.