

**This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
July 13, 2025**



What does it mean to be a priest? I thought about this often as I was sick in the hospital. Why was God having me suffer? I think He wants me to be more zealous for the salvation of souls. I have spoken about this at Mass.

Pope Leo addressed all priests in a letter on the feast of the Sacred Heart back on June 27. What did he say? He addressed all priests with gratitude and confidence—great confidence. Pope Leo wrote, “The heart of Christ, pierced for love, is the living, and life-giving flesh that embraces each of us and conforms us to the image of the Good Shepherd. “

It is He where we find what it means to be a priest. “Consumed by God’s Mercy, we become joyful witnesses of His love that heals, accompanies and redeems.” We must be totally committed to the service of God’s holy people. This mission starts with prayer. It is carried out united to Christ Our Lord.

Jesus constantly revives us as priests. In paragraph 14 of his letter, Pope Leo quotes his spiritual Father, St. Augustine. Augustine tells us to enter into, “a vast and deep inner chamber.” This chamber does not only preserve a memory of the past. It makes its riches ever new and present.

We are to build unity and peace. “In a world marked by growing tensions, even within families and ecclesial communities, priests are called to promote reconciliation and foster communion.” After stating this, Pope Leo gave us concrete ways of doing this as priests.

- That we be pastors of wise discernment
- That we be skilled in the art of piecing together the fragments of the lives entrusted to our care
- For the ability to understand and interpret complex situations

- That we enable to see the light of the Gospel in the midst of life's trials

There is more, but WOW!! What responsibilities! I remember you at Mass.

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT!