

This Week's Message
from Fr. Amesse
July 5, 2026



Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận was appointed Archbishop Coadjutor of Saigon in April 1975. Just days later, after the fall of Saigon on April 30, he was arrested by the Communist government. He spent the next thirteen years in prison, including nine years in solitary confinement. Despite these hardships, he never lost sight of Christ. His witness and his writings continue to inspire Christians throughout the world.

Cardinal Nguyễn Văn Thuận reflected on how pollution slowly damages the beautiful Gothic churches of Europe. He compared that pollution to sin, which slowly destroys communion between people.

He wrote:

"The atmosphere of communion is polluted when I egotistically seek my own interests and not those of my brothers and sisters, and those of the Lord; when I oblige others to follow my will and not God's; when I take back what I have already offered with generosity; when I judge my brothers and sisters unjustly; and when I lock them into their deficiencies."

He then reminds us where true communion is found:

"Lord Jesus, we are in communion when you are among us, because you bring your life into ours. When we go away from you, we also abandon our brothers and sisters, and communion is broken. If I substitute your presence, Lord, with selfishness, prejudice, self-love, or jealousy, I put love to death and communion is broken."

His words invite each of us to examine our own lives. Do I build communion with others? Or do selfishness, pride, resentment, or jealousy separate me from God and from those around me? The answer is found in Christ. Each Sunday, the Lord invites us to gather around His altar. There we receive His Body and Blood. We also offer our lives to the Father. There we learn that love is expressed not only in extraordinary acts, but also in the faithful acceptance of the ordinary crosses of daily life.

Carmelite Sister Ruth Burrows expresses this beautifully:

"The most valuable form of asceticism, because it is the actual exercise of love, is the patient acceptance of the hardships and sufferings of life."

Patiently accepting life's hardships slowly wears away our selfishness. Even the monotony of daily life can become a cross that draws us closer to Christ. As we accept it with faith, our lives become a true expression of our dedication to God. May we always seek the communion that only Christ can give. As we grow closer to Him, may our hearts be renewed, our families strengthened, and our love for one another reflect the love He has shown us.

You pray for me. I pray for you.

I remember you at Mass.