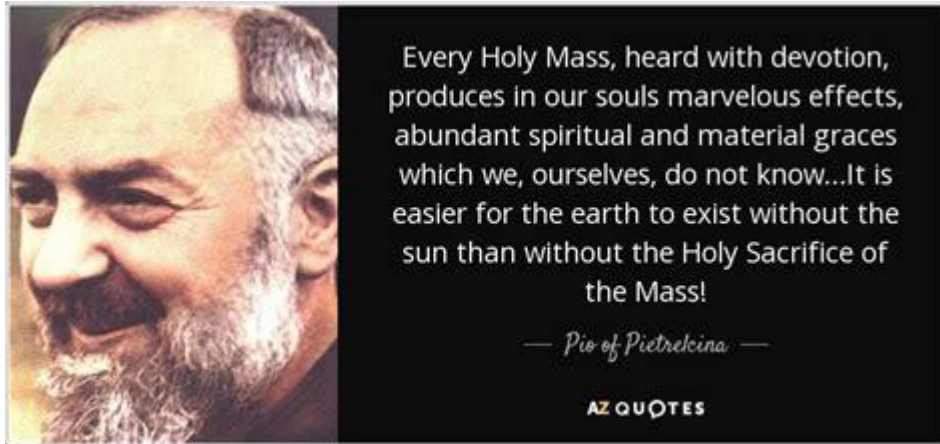


FROM FATHER JOHN: *"Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.'" (John 6:53 – 58)*



On Thursday morning, September 17th, Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop Brendan J. Cahill as the Seventh Bishop of Joliet. Bishop Cahill comes to us from the Diocese of Victoria, Texas where he has been the bishop since 2015. I welcome Bishop Cahill to our diocese and look forward to working with him over the next few years. Please keep Bishop Cahill and the Diocese of Joliet in your prayers.

He was born in Florida, moved to the Houston area as a child, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston and lived his entire adult life in Texas except for when he was in Rome for advanced studies. I imagine January and February will be very interesting times for our new bishop. You can learn more about him at [Bishop Brendan J. Cahill - Diocese of Joliet](https://www.diojoliet.org/es/bishop-brendan-j-cahill): <https://www.diojoliet.org/es/bishop-brendan-j-cahill>

Parents and priests, maybe even grandparents, are often faced with the same complaint from young people. It's a simple complaint but is seriously misguided. The young person will say that *mass is boring*. They say this because they don't want to take the time and make the effort to go to mass or because the mass is not as exciting as their favorite sport, concert or video game. Sometimes they say it because they don't understand what the mass is and what value it has in their spiritual lives.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan (formerly the Archbishop of New York, now retired) wrote, back in 2014, a great article about this phenomenon called *Boring Mass?* I've kept this article all these years because I think it's helpful in explaining to young people the importance of the mass. We need to think about the mass as being an important part of our lives rather than thinking of it in terms of how exciting it is in comparison to other things we do throughout the week. I thought I would share this article with you. I hope and pray you find it helpful.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

FROM CARDINAL DOLAN:

“‘Mass is so boring!’ How often have you parents heard that from your kids on Sunday morning? How often have our teachers and catechists heard it as they prepare our children for Mass? And, let’s admit it, how often have we said it to ourselves?

What do we say to that unfortunate and almost sacrilegious statement? Well, for one, we simply reply, No, it’s not! You may find the Mass boring, but, that’s more your problem than the fault of the Mass.

We may find a lot of very important activities in life ‘boring’: visits to the dentist can be that way; kidney patients tell me dialysis three times a week is hardly a thrill; voting is no barrel of laughs. But, all three of them are very significant to our wellbeing, and their value hardly depends on us being ecstatic while doing them. The Mass is even more important for the health of our soul than those examples.

Boredom is our problem, and social commentators tell us we today, so used to thirty-second sound bites, or flipping the channel when we yawn at a program, are susceptible to it. Thank God, a person’s or an event’s value does not depend on its tendency to sometimes ‘bore’ us. People and significant events exist not to thrill us, unless we are the most narcissistic and spoiled of brats!

This is especially true of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We believe that every Mass is the renewal of the most important, critical event that ever occurred: the eternal, infinite sacrifice of praise of God the Son, Jesus, to God the Father, on a cross on Calvary on a Friday called ‘good.’ Come to think of it, the Roman soldiers were ‘bored’ there, too, as they mocked Jesus and rolled dice for his tunic, the only property He had.

Two, we hardly go to Mass to be entertained, but to pray. If the flowers on the altar are pretty; if the music is good; if the air conditioning is working; if the sermon is short and meaningful; if the folks are friendly . . . all that sure helps. But, the Mass works even when all of the above may be missing – and, sadly, they often are!

Because, the Mass is not about us, but about God. And the value of the Mass comes from our simple yet profound conviction, based on faith, that , for an hour on Sunday, we’re part of the beyond, lifted up to the eternal, a participant in a mystery, as we unite with Jesus in the thanks, love, atonement, and sacrifice He eternally offers His Father. What Jesus does always works, and is never boring. The Mass is not some tedious chore we do for God, but a miracle Jesus does with and for us.

A gentleman was just telling me about his family Sunday dinner, the heart of the week when he was growing up. The food was so good because his mom cooked it so well, and the table so happy because his dad was always there!

Even after he got married and had his own kids, they’d all go to his mom and dad’s for that Sunday dinner. When his kids got a bit older they asked if they ‘had to go,’ because, yes, at times they found it ‘boring.’ Yes, you, do, he would reply, because we don’t just go for the food, but because of love, because mom and dad are there!

He teared-up as he recalled that, as mom and dad got old, the food wasn’t as good and the company not as sparkling, but he’d never miss, because that Sunday event had a depth of meaning even when mom burned the lasagna and dad nodded off. And now, he concluded, he’d give anything to be there again, because mom’s gone, and dad’s in a home. So now he and his wife host it, and he hopes his three kids will one day bring their spouses and children to their Sunday table.

See, the value of that Sunday dinner doesn’t depend on how good the food is; how expensive the wine; how interesting the conversation. All that sure helps, but it’s the event that has the real value.

Same with the Sunday dinner of our spiritual family: Mass. Some folks think a game at Yankee Stadium is boring; some consider country music the same; some people tell me that values such as friendship, volunteer work, family, loyalty, generosity, and patriotism are 'passe,' no longer 'exciting.' I'd say they got a problem!

And some tell me 'Mass is so boring.'"