

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Mass for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Adoration Chapel  
St. Matthew Catholic Church – January 22, 2017**

**“I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.”** These powerful words of St. Paul to the Corinthian community are still as challenging to us today in our own communities of faith. We in this country, this state, and even this world, are fractured and divided. Even among us Christians, we are divided and bickering. To be honest, I think St. Paul would have even stronger words for us these days.

This does not mean I am pessimistic, but it is my work as your bishop to challenge you like St. Paul did. Christians are called to unity in the truth – the truth who is Jesus Christ. His Gospel is what guides us. Only the Gospel of Christ brings us to wholeness and unity. As Isaiah prophesied: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” The Gospel comes to us from our Lord, the same Lord we meet in the adoration chapel. This Gospel has been quietly spoken to the hearts of all who have visited your Chapel here at St. Matthew for the last 30 years. And that same Eucharistic challenge stands at the heart of your community even today.

When Chloe and her community called for unity in the Church of Corinth, the divisions were around who they all followed: “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos.” But today, we find different divisions among the members of our community. These divisions among Christians are just as ridiculous as the divisions in Chloe’s community nearly 2000 years ago. God is not limited by our human-drawn lines, so why are we if we follow him? There must be no divisions among us who are one Body in

**Christ! On this Anniversary of the centrality of the Eucharist in this beautiful community, may you take the challenge of Chloe and Paul seriously. Be people of unity founded on the Blessed Sacrament.**

**As people of communion, will you let our pastor, Pope Francis, guide you as those great saints of the first century did? In one of his general audiences Pope Francis said: “This is one of the first important effects of the action of the Holy Spirit who guides and brings to life the proclamation of the Gospel: unity, communion. The language of the Spirit, the language of the Gospel, is the language of communion which invites us to get the better of closed-ness and indifference, division and antagonization. We must all ask ourselves: How do I let myself be guided by the Holy Spirit in such a way that my life and my witness of faith is both unity and communion? ... Spreading the Gospel means that we are the first to proclaim and live the reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, unity and love which the Holy Spirit gives us” (22 May 2013).**

**Let the Holy Spirit guide your hearts, my friends. May the Gospel guide you to love your fellow Christians and indeed all people. May the Gospel guide you to solidarity as people of the Eucharist, people of communion. The solidarity of the Gospel brings light to the world. The Lord called simple fishermen out of their old life and built a Universal Church on the ways of God. The Holy Spirit called a woman Chloe and her community to work for unity in the truth, and left a legacy that will last to eternity, calling all of God’s children to wholeness. May we follow their example, call upon the Holy Spirit, and be honest before our Lord, “that there be no divisions among [us], but that [we may] be united in the same mind and in the same purpose” (1 Cor). Come Holy Spirit, be our guide to unity in the truth, to be one in the Body of Christ.**