

**Capital Campaign Chairs Mass of Thanksgiving
June 25, 2019**

My dear friends, thank you for coming out today and celebrating the Holy Eucharist with me. I cannot help but to reflect that it was only two days ago that we were processing through the streets downtown with the Blessed Sacrament, celebrating the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The real presence of Jesus with us in his body and blood, through the transubstantiated signs of the bread and wine, is his pledge of “being with us” until the end of time. And so, to come together to celebrate this great gift is a true blessing for us.

In today’s gospel reading we hear Jesus refer to what has become known as the “golden rule,” to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. It sounds so simple, doesn’t it? Imagine if the whole world treated each other in this way all the time! There would be no war or threat of war. There would be no hunger, no untreated disease, no gossip, and so forth. But it’s hard for us to do because of our wounded human nature. One of the lingering effects of original sin is our inability to act this way consistently, and that we are subject to the temptations of hurting and dominating each other.

Jesus admonishes us to enter by the narrow gate. That is an invitation to make the tougher choices. To sometimes go against our nature. To think and pray so as to make the better decision and to do the good action. To do things that will honor both God and men. It speaks to the fact that we have a high calling as human beings.

Having been made in God's image and likeness, we are to strive to be like Him in this world. But, we cannot do this unaided by grace! We need God's grace so as to fulfill this high calling! And God gives us this grace abundantly in Christ, most especially in the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

I am blessed to call you friends. You are among my most important collaborators in extending the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese. In your generosity you are bearing witness to the golden rule. You are moving toward entering the narrow gate that Christ has called us to enter. I am grateful to you, and grateful for you. Let us now ask for the divine assistance we need as we celebrate together the gift of the Holy Eucharist.