

**Invocation – 7th Annual Archbishop’s Prayer Breakfast
Whitley Theological Center – May 26th, 2022**

Thank you, Michael, for your generous introduction! Thank you all for being here and for your continuously generous support to the mission of Catholic Charities, which is vital to the mission of the whole Church.

Saint Paul said: “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. ...the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary... But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.” (1 Cor 12:12-14.22.24-26).

Despite the joy of this encounter, we continue to mourn the loss of innocent lives in Uvalde. But by the merits of his cross, Jesus has reached into the darkest corners of suffering and evil in our world to give us an invincible hope. To God, no life is lost.

Heavenly Father, through the hands of Our Lady of Sorrows, we entrust you with our indignation and the sorrow of families in Uvalde. We commend the souls of the victims and the perpetrator to the Sacred Heart of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eternal Goodness, only through Jesus are we enabled to address you. “Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it

remains on the vine,” (Jn 15:4) so neither can we unless we remain in Him. Send us your Holy Spirit, that we may never be separated from Jesus.

Source of all joy, we come together this morning as a Church to rejoice in how you created the world with perfect order and design. Jesus has instructed us in how to live fully in your design by giving us the beatitudes. We must know his heart. He is our compass to discern what is right, what is true, what is just, what is most fulfilling and dignifying. We need the assistance of the Holy Spirit so as not to be afraid. We must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and be deeply convicted in our home life, our work life and our civic life that He is Lord. This truth must permeate everything we do and make us unwavering in persecution for the sake of the Cross.

Giver of life, give us this day our daily bread. Continue to feed us your Eternal Word and the Bread of Life at the Eucharistic banquet. As your Son makes Himself present when two or more are gathered in His name, continue to feed us with the food of charity, so that we may be one, like you and Jesus are One with the Holy Spirit. Continue to edify the faithful Body of Christ, the Church, so that we may live radical holiness informed by the beatitudes in our daily lives at home, at work and in society. May we get to know Jesus more closely every day, so that we may no longer live, but Christ through our unwavering, unashamed, and boundless works of mercy.

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.