



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF} MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

APRIL 30, 2017

Dear friends in the Risen Lord,

Imagine this: You're at a baseball game, and the announcer asks everyone to stand and join in singing the national anthem, but the fellow next to you doesn't. What goes through your mind? In the same way, choosing not to sing at Mass ought to strike us all as downright strange.

One way to understand what happens on Sunday is this: The people assembled here, all of us, sing our liturgy. The Second Vatican Council restored this ancient and authentic understanding of worship: Mass is not something we watch or hear, but something we do, all of us, by virtue of our baptism into the priesthood of Jesus Christ! And this is especially true of the music at Mass—our sung prayer.

Our celebration of First Holy Communion over the next two weeks brings to my mind a marvelous insight from an 8-year-old some years ago: He said that not singing at Mass is like going to Jesus' birthday party but not joining in when everyone else sings "Happy Birthday."

St. Augustine said that one of the things that convinced him to convert to Christ was the strong singing of the Alleluia that he heard coming from a church. That singing lured him in and changed his life forever. Let the same be said of our parish's singing, of your singing! And in this glorious Easter season, the Alleluia is a good place to start.

Your brother in Christ's word and work,