

April 15, 2020

Dear Holy Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church Community in Hibbing, MN,

I write to you on the eve of Great and Holy Thursday, the Last Supper of Our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Great Mystery of Christ is one that shrouds all eternity and our short existence here on earth. It is as though we exist in a place that is alive and moving but we ourselves are somehow trying to be transported into a different reality. Just as if, we found ourselves in a dark earthen cellar and there was one ray of Light shining in. We dig and claw and try to find our way into the Eternal Sunshine.

These days are quite uncertain for all of us, but this can be a very healthy thing as it gives us a chance to slow down and search our hearts for the God we long for. I know that we can be quite entertained by the temporal scene around us, but as Christians we are afforded the spiritual eyes to see God's Grace operating within it all. Everytime we receive the precious Eucharist, even though the physical scene around us has not really changed, everything seems brighter and we can see the Light of Christ in our brothers and sisters, as well as all creation. This is the Presence of the Great Mystery, this slight brightness added to our perception is only the tiniest foreshadowing of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. However, everytime we receive the Body and Blood of Christ we are gently afforded small light rays of this vision.

So let us truly long for the Eucharist, which Christ gave to us on this Great and Holy Thursday. Let us yearn to purify our hearts until, God willing, the next time we can have a face to Face encounter with our Lord, God, Savior Jesus Christ.

Every bad and wicked habit that we have is just like a groove on the well of our hearts. The more we do the same action in the same way, drop the bucket down in the well, pull up the rope. The deeper the groove on the side of our well becomes. If we keep drawing up muddy water from the same groove, let's make a change. Let's find the clean water so that we can give fresh drink to those around us and have this as our testimony next time we meet God face to Face, in Communion of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

May Christ our true God, Who through His surpassing goodness showed the most excellent way of humility when He washed the feet of His disciples, and condescended even unto the Cross and burial for us, have mercy on us all and save us. Amen.

With the blessings of God,  
Father Constantine "Dean" Franck