

Pastor's Column



In the Season of Thanksgiving—A Lifetime of Gratitude

In this month of November, in a special way, due to the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we turn our thoughts to thankfulness and gratitude. Hopefully, gratitude is not a seasonal “thing,” but a way of life for us.

Our lives as Catholics are based on the Eucharist. We are a Eucharistic people. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” We begin and end each day with a prayer of gratitude for all that God has given and continues to give, if we are only aware!

As we make our way to Thanksgiving Day, may it be a time that propels us to be a thankful people not only in season, but also all year long.

What prayer will you pray as family and friends gather together around the Thanksgiving Dinner Table? I encourage you to make sure that a prayer is said before the meal is served!

In the event that you are looking for a special prayer to be prayed, I share with you the “The Canticle of the Creatures” by St. Francis of Assisi:

*Most High, all powerful, good God, all praise is yours,
all glory, all honor, and all blessing.*

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.

No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

*All praise be yours, my God, through all you have made,
and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day;
and through whom you give us light.*

*How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor;
of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*All praise be yours, my God,
through Sister Moon and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them, bright, precious, and fair.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through Brothers wind and air,
and fair and stormy,
all the weather's moods, by which you cherish
all that you have made.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious, and pure.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten up the night.
How beautiful is he, how cheerful!
Full of power and strength.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us,
and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through those
who grant pardon for love of you;
through those who endure sickness and trial.*

*Happy are those who endure in peace,
by You, Most High, they will be crowned.*

*All praise be yours, my God, through Sister Death,
from whose embrace no mortal can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in their sins!
Happy those she finds doing your will!
The second death can do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my God, and give God thanks
And serve God with great humility.*

As you plan your calendars for Thanksgiving Day, I encourage you to make morning Mass a part of the day. Our Mass on Thanksgiving Day here at St. Thomas More will be on Thursday, November 22, at 9:00am. Hope to see you there!

F. Mike