



“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.”- St. John Paul II

Dear brothers,

As we prepare to give God thanks at our Thanksgiving celebrations throughout the province, we do so with the realization that we truly are thankful and blessed.

We know that we do not do everything as perfectly as we would like, our communities also are not perfect. Often, we face challenges in ministry, in community or in our personal lives. We must thank God for the blessings God has given us. We also must be grateful for the journey God has taken us on during our lives. We must even thank God for the opportunity to suffer. Each moment has led us closer to Jesus and our desire for intimacy with the Heart of Christ. Without gratitude, we will be stuck, unable to move toward the great things God has in store for us. Once we get to a place of thanksgiving we can live enthusiastically in the present and look forward to what is to come in this life and the next. I personally look forward to life after being provincial superior.

Life is full of many blessings for us. We are blessed with food, a roof over our head, clothes, shoes, a car, ministries, community, a comfortable retirement, etc. Our benefactors are very good to us and we need to use these gifts wisely. We need to be thankful for their generosity. How often do we complain about these things? How often do we take the blessings we have for granted?

As Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, our charism calls us to daily surrender ourselves to Jesus. We are called to “seek and lead, as the one thing necessary, a life of union with the oblation of Christ.” [#26 Rule of Life] We are called to be thankful for the blessings and burdens in our lives.

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to be thankful for all of the amazing gifts with which we are blessed. I hope your Thanksgiving is full of love and joy. Just a little gratitude can unlock the fullness of love. As we pray on Thanksgiving, let each one and each community pray for our generous benefactors. Let us also pray in gratitude for each other!

With gratitude,

Ed Kilianski, SCJ

Ed Kilianski, SCJ
Provincial Superior