

HOMILY, SHSST Multicultural Mass

October 7, 2020

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The celebration of this multi-cultural mass is the celebration of the expression of our unity in diversity. It is not about becoming the same as another culture. It is not necessarily doing everything together, thinking the same way or losing one's identity. Unity in diversity is exactly the opposite. The unity in diversity is when we recognize and accept with joy the different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives each culture and to each one of us, and to put them at the service of all in the Church and outside of the Church. Unity is an expression of our life together in diversity, with respect for the dignity and rights of others. **We can see what is going on in this great country with Black People, for that we as the Church have the responsibility to unite our voices together and to make it known and heard. This is what Unity in diversity is about.** The Priests of Sacred Heart call this unity in diversity the “**Sint Unum**”, **the communion of persons**. If we are gathered here today, it is to celebrate this communion of people, with the diversity of cultures that we represent. The “Our Father” prayer that we just heard in the Gospel reminds us of the very expression of this unity in diversity. When we pray and say, “Our Father” it is because Jesus himself does not ask us to say “My Father”, but “Our Father”. By saying “Our Father” each time we pray, it shows and represents communion that exists between sons and daughters of the same Father.

Beyond Cultural diversity, we have one Lord, Christ; who brings together men and women whoever we are (blacks, whites, yellows, and so on). All of us are found united in him. We All have one Hope to be in the house of God on the last day of our life on this earth. We are created to live in community, our societies, our cities, between people. We are created for friendship among all peoples, to be all together. As Pope Francis says in his new Encyclical Fratelli tutti (We are all brothers), “To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home.”

We cannot therefore pray to the one God, we cannot call God “Our Father”, without this having consequences in our mutual relationship. It means when I speak to you or when I see you, I want

you to feel and see that we have one Father, the one who sent Jesus Christ to die on the Cross in order to save the humanity. Knowing how to see the image of God in the face of my neighbors, it is to see the image of God in my face as well, because all of us were created in the image of the same God. Calling God “Our Father” makes us accountable to one another as God's creation, made in God's image. The one God calls us to unity, to justice and to peace among us.

Pray for the salvation of the souls of every person in this world, especially for those who were affected and are still affected by the virus, the immigrants who are dying in the Mediterranean, those who are dying on their ways from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean to the United States. Our indifferences do not kill only our neighbors, but also God because he lives in each of us.

Celebrating a multicultural mass, then, is not simply sharing the liturgy in various languages and cultures; it is about making a pause: Asking ourselves this question: Where are we with our unity in our relationship with one another?