

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



How much we need to celebrate this Feast of Pentecost. The liturgy, our celebration of the Eucharist, is essential for our life and identity.

A week after the horror that took place in Robb Elementary School in Uvalde Texas, where we saw an 18-year-old arm himself with more bullets than a soldier takes into combat, having gifted himself two AK 47s for his birthday.

Did no one see the warning signs? Did the alarm bells not grab anyone's attention? There are sins of commission and sins of omission. That which we do which we ought not. That which we fail to do that we ought.

The sin of omission can mean throwing our hands in the air, and saying, "well, what can I do? I don't want to get involved."

We have a responsibility to one another, the graces we receive are not just for our own personal sanctification, but for the good of the wider community and the society we live in.

The fallout from the Pandemic and lockdown are beginning to surface. The mental health issues, loneliness, the sense of a lack of purpose in life....

There were plenty of warning signs before the tragedy in Uvalde, but no one paid attention. A youth with no friends. A youth who spends all his time on social media. A youth who kills cats for kicks. A youth who has little or no parental involvement in his life. A youth who is bullied, who has no self-worth. There were plenty of warning signs.

When was the last time we looked someone in the eye, a stranger, and said 'Good morning?' When was the last time we offered to help a stranger put their groceries in the car? When was the last time we said to the kids or the grandkids: 'Invite the loner in your class to come over to our house for dinner?' When did we tell them to sit with the geeky kid in school at lunchtime, the one with no friends?

Pentecost announces that Heaven exists. Light overcomes darkness, hope trumps despair, love conquers death. You are witnesses to these things, says St. Paul. The Holy Spirit has been given to us. He is a witness to the truth. The truth that life, heaven, beauty, and every person has an inestimable value and worth.

Happy Pentecost.

Fr. Sean