



***The Sacred Heart  
Annunciation Parish***

***Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.  
Always be ready to give an explanation  
to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.***

*The First Letter of Saint Peter*

Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

The above words from the First Letter of Saint Peter are part of the Second Reading for the Mass of this Sixth Sunday of Easter. They are a favorite among many in evangelical Christian circles. Which is in some ways a great irony, as they are words from the first “Pope!” But even we can get things right from time to time, and the rightness of these words, the truth of them, overcomes those matters we think divide us. Unity in the words of Scripture, thanks be to God!

But what do they mean?

The heart is the seat of will, desire, choice, freedom. What our hearts are set on is how we order our lives. So, is Christ Lord in our hearts? Do we pray, think, learn, act, in ways that assure a dwelling place for Christ? Who’s calling the shots?

Sanctify. May the place in our hearts be a holy place. A living shrine, kept clean of all that is not of God, so that the Lord, who never forces entry, has a place to come and dwell.

Christ as Lord. Jesus, Crucified and Risen, is Lord – in the Hebrew and Greek understanding, and the bedrock of our faith - God. The humanity of Jesus, our humanity, subject to all manner of death and dying, is become an acceptable offering to the Father. In Him we are being made holy.

Christ. The Anointed of God. From the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation moment of His conception, through the baptism of His Passion and Death, his entire human life is Christ. His Resurrection reveals his true identity, and ours. Made known as Christ, He has prepared a name for those who serve Him: Christian – those anointed, at Baptism and Confirmation, fully conformed to Him.

He has, if you will, sanctified us in His Most Sacred Heart. In the Heart of the Divine, we have a home! And that is the surest reason for all our hope!

Let us continue our Easter rejoicing in the Lord!

Yours in the Risen Christ,  
Fr. Grogan

***Heart of Christ, we sing your praises,  
wellspring of eternal life;  
in the sorrows of your passion,  
we find refuge from our strife!***

***Heart of Christ, how you embody,  
all the wonders of God's love;  
how you tell the tender mercies  
showered from our God above!***

***Heart of Christ, who brings us healing,  
touch the lowly and the weak;  
let us see your loving kindness,  
show yourself to all who seek!***