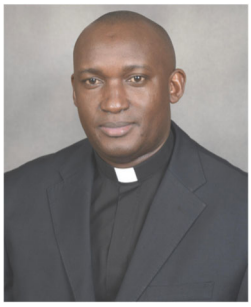
FROM FR. DEO

May 3, 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

God is good all the time... All the time God is good!

I extend heartfelt congratulations to our First Communicants who have encountered Christ in the Eucharist. It was a joy to witness their excitement and reverence. We look forward to presenting them to the community as they take part in the crowning of the Virgin Mary. As St. Augustine reminds us, "Be what you see; receive what you are—the Body of Christ." In this sacred gift, Jesus comes into our hearts and walks with us.

This Fifth Sunday of Easter calls us to be a dynamic community, one that bears witness to Christ through our love and service to one another. It is a message about who we are together as Church, and it beautifully echoes our parish vision: "*We are a vibrant Catholic parish family where all are welcomed to seek and be transformed by Christ, and to be sent forth to radiate Trinitarian love in daily life.*" Christ is the Way who leads us to the Father, the Truth we embrace, and the Life we are called to share and live.

In the readings (Acts 6:1-7), the early Christian community faced real challenges of unfair treatment of the poor, but the community did not ignore it. Instead, it responded by establishing the ministry of deacons to ensure just and compassionate care. This reminds us that our faith is meant to be lived in community. Each of us has a role to play in building up the Church—through service, charity, and shared responsibility.

The second reading (1 Peter 2:4–5) reminds us that we are "living stones," called to be part of something greater than ourselves. God is building us into a spiritual home, with Christ as the cornerstone. In a world of uncertainty, difficulties, and violence, Jesus assures us: "Do not let your hearts be troubled… I am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (John 14:1, 6). When we feel lost, we are invited to trust in Him and walk in His Way.

We are called not only to believe, but also to contribute actively to the life and mission of our parish community. This will result in making us the vibrant parish we strive to be. I want to sincerely thank each of you for your love and support of our parish. A parish is not just church and school buildings—it is its people, every one of you. Together, we are called to love our parish, take responsibility for it, and actively participate in its life and mission.

Our parish will be participating in the "Generation to Generation: Answer the Call" campaign, along with every parish within the Archdiocese of Chicago. This campaign is an opportunity to strengthen our local parish and support the broader Chicago Catholic community by spiritually renewing our parishes, supporting our priests, and assisting parish communities in need. More details will be shared soon.

As we enter the month of May, we turn our hearts to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our model of faith and trust in Christ. I thank the Pastoral Council for organizing the candlelight rosary on May 1, a beautiful way to begin our Marian devotions. I encourage each of you to take time to pray the Rosary during Our Lady's month.

In Christ,

Fr Deo

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." John 14:1