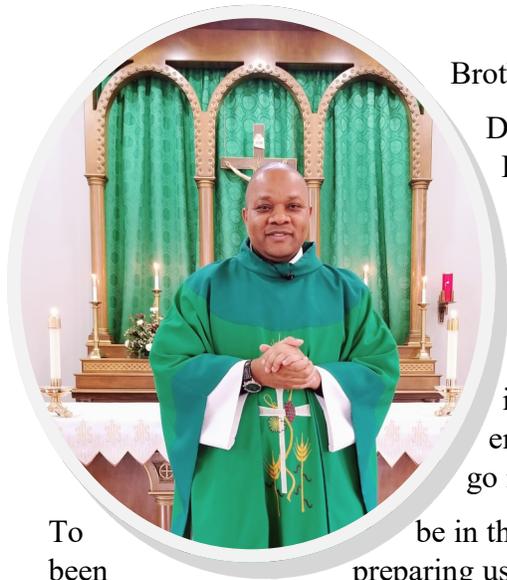


FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!

During our recent midweek liturgical celebration, the 2nd of February, the Church solemnly celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. If you will read Luke 2:22-40, you would encounter the Canticle of Simeon, his greeting of the Baby Jesus, and those unforgettable words to Our Lady. One can only imagine Simeon's amazement when meeting The Messiah! Each time we meet our Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we can be fortunate enough to experience that luminous moment, "Now Lord... let your servant go in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

To be in the Presence of God's holiness, is this what our liturgies have been preparing us for? Look closely at the principal 'types' in our three liturgical readings today: Isaiah, St. Paul, and St. Peter all express their unworthiness to be in the presence of God's holiness, and yet despite their incompleteness, they were nevertheless called unto the grace of God. The Second Vatican Council teaches that we are *all* called to ministry by virtue of our Baptism into Jesus Christ. We are not qualified on our own to serve the Lord, instead, the Lord cleanses us to be qualified to serve him.

To put out into the deep, today's Gospel theme, suggests our taking on something more than we have ever done before. Unable to make this happen for ourselves, we seek out the Sacraments where our sins and weaknesses are confessed and repented. Peter was completely unprepared for the invasion of Jesus' grace in his life and the power that it held; he "left everything and followed Him." On his own, Peter could do nothing. Is this not a call to humility? The God, who calls us and commissions us for His service, wants us to realize His presence everywhere and in everyone, to repent of our sins, and to remain in readiness to speak and act for Him in our life circumstances as He directs.

Our responsibility in serving God requires us to model and practice expressions of purity and reverence for the Lord. We need not be reluctant to express great meekness and contrition upon reception of the sacred host, that we can approach our Lord Jesus with deep veneration. Our Lord speaks to us in the liturgy of the Word, let us listen to him attentively. The sweet graces that come with each Holy Communion contain invisible guidelines that direct our unique mission in the Church. If you have been gifted with a desire to serve God and the Body of Christ, we would treasure your gifts and talents in any capacity of service. Please feel free always to phone us or use my personal email if you are answering a call to share and to bless your Church: "frjabuh@gmail.com"

~JOYOUS SUNDAY~!