



St. Therese Catholic Church

901 N. Tahoe Trail

Sioux Falls, SD 57110-5779

(605) 338-2433

Fax (605) 339-2203

August 24, 2011

Dear St. Therese Friends,

Did anyone else have this experience as a child? My parents, especially my Mother, were very vigilant to teach my brother and I the necessity of THANK YOU. "David, what do you say for that cookie?" "Don't forget to write a note to your Aunt and Uncle for the Christmas gift." Good Christian Moms and Days know that gratitude is good manners but even more reflects the values of the Kingdom of God. Thank you to God and those in our lives is so important that Catholics live it at Holy Mass each Sunday. The very Greek word *Eucharist* means thanksgiving.

I invite the families of St. Therese to celebrate a Year of the Eucharist in gratitude to our good and gracious God for His many gifts, graces and blessings to our community. This parish Year of the Eucharist begins at the 4:00pm Vigil Mass September 10, 2011 and will conclude on Monday, October 1, 2012, the Solemnity of St. Therese of Lisieux, our patroness. What is the purpose of the special year and what do we hope to accomplish? Here are a few of our projects and more will come:

- We will prepare to welcome the new translation of the Roman Missal on November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent. Part of receiving the new translation of prayers will be to learn more deeply what we believe about the Eucharist and why we do what we do at Holy Mass. We will learn to say and sing new words that convey the same faith that we have always loved.
- This month we welcome Sarah Kanable, our new Faith Formation Director-Youth Minister for our parish. We will use this year to get a running start to building up a youth program at St. Therese, that is vibrantly Catholic, without apology and that meets our teens where they are at in faith and in their lives.
- Last month I reflected in my Sunday homily about examining all of our groups, committees and ministries in light of the Eucharistic mystery. In other words, how well do the mission statements, budgets and other vision documents correspond to the Lord's Body and Blood broken and poured out for us? I will lead this discussion throughout the coming year.

Let me take this last word to practice what my Parent's preached to me: THANK YOU. Knowing that we are in tough economic times, thank you to those who give faithfully to the ordinary income of our parish. Thank you to those who continue with your pledge to *Our Church, Our Future Campaign* that will pay off our debt and move us toward the future. Thank you to all who participate in our *2011 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA)* because you want to be part of the many ministries that enrich the faith of neighbors across South Dakota. I do not take lightly the sacrifice it takes to be generous stewards at such a time. Finally, a big thank you to so many of you who have showed me kindness, gifts and graces throughout my first year at St. Therese. If I failed to acknowledge your gift, please accept this thanks to God for you.

Fr. David

Fr. David