



The Most Reverend M. Heckman DD RSJ
Corpus Christi Communion
Office of the Metropolitan Archbishop

April 20, 2018

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Welcome to General Synod!

The theme for this year General Synod is “**Love never fails**” Building Up, The Church In Love. As the people of God, this is an important - no, it is an essential theme of our faith.. . It is a theme that reminds us of the unconditional love of our Lord for each of us, the great and the forgotten, the wealthy and the poor, those who are well and those who are sick. Each of us wounded or whole, is part of the mystical flock that He shepherds. Each of us is equally important to the Shepherd! By the theme itself, “*Love never fails*” *building up the church in love* we are reminded of the very nature of our responsibilities to Christ and to His flock, the people who have been entrusted to our care.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

By the help of the Holy Spirit, God has committed into the hands into the specific areas of emphasis, in direct response to Isaiah 40:6, “The voice said, Cry. And he said, what shall I cry?”

Isaiah 40:6-8 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "Their are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

We must be sincerely committed to doing what is right and just for all the people we serve. We must be absolutely committed to doing what is right and just for each other. For without this commitment, we are nothing more than, as St. Paul says, A banging gong".... That we cannot afford to be! The people of God's family need more than banging gongs... they need shepherds! We, the shepherds, need shepherds! Real, committed and loving shepherds! Shepherds who are willing to give the Holy Sacrament of the Church, joyfully, and lovingly echoing the words of our Lord, in building up the church.

This Synod will allow us to renew old friendships, create new ones; to learn; to reflect; to discern and to take time to once again clearly refocus on our calling to the sacramental ministry of Jesus the Risen Christ. **The Corpus Christi Communion a Reformed Catholic Church, as we celebrate our eighteenth year of ministry this will be a year of amazing growth and outreach.** I believe, with all my heart, this growth has happened as the Holy Spirit is with us, guiding us, inspiring us onto new adventures. We, as a community, are remaining true to the Gospel, we are serving as Christ's hands and feet, we are taking leaps of faith! And as a result, we are being blessed! **Truly blessed!**

May you know and believe that you are loved and valued by all in this faith community. May you feel a passion to set the world on fire with the good news that comes to us from Jesus the Risen Christ! May you find peace in Christ! We thank the people of Holy Cross, St Sebastian CCC for their hospitality and everyone that worked to on the Synod.

Love never fails; Let us, Join together to build up the church, with the ultimate gift of love!



Your brother in Christ

The Most Reverend M. Heckman DD RSJ
Metropolitan Archbishop of the Corpus Christi Communion