

Welcome HOME to the TABLE of the Lord.

Together let us **RE-MEMBER** the Church at
BLESSED TRINITY † SPIRIT OF CHRIST!

A letter to a Catholic who has not been to Mass in a while....

I can only guess at your reasons for not coming to church regularly or for not coming to church at all. Perhaps you have been hurt by the church, by the institution itself or by one of its priests or ministers. Perhaps you have been one of those who have experienced it as callous, as insensitive, as denigrating you in some way.

Or perhaps you are intellectually disenchanted with the church, unable to square its claims with your own sane grip on life and its mysteries. Or perhaps you have found what you are looking for elsewhere, outside the doors of the church you attended when you were little.

Or perhaps you have just drifted away and don't think about church very much at all. Perhaps you don't feel a need for church in your life. Or, perhaps you are convinced that Jesus and his teachings are in fact tainted by the church, that Jesus never wanted to found a church, but wanted only that people take his teachings to heart and live in love and graciousness. There are many reasons why people don't go to church. I can only guess at yours.

But your reason for not going is not important for this letter. I don't want to defend the church here, make some kind of apologetics for it, or argue against any of the reasons that people give for not coming to church. And I don't want to try to show you reasons why, I think, it is important to go to church. This is not an apologetics, but a plea, an invitation:

Come back! Try us again! Or, if you have never belonged to the church, try us!

Maybe this time you will find life in the church and be able to drink in some of its graces. Maybe this time you will find it in you to forgive the church for its faults, see those faults are your own faults, and see why Jesus picked such an imperfect vehicle to carry on his presence.

Maybe this time you will be able to see in the church what Jesus saw in it --- an imperfect body made up of men and women like you and me, full of sin, full of ourselves, petty, small-hearted, less-than-sincere, miserly and tainted, but also full of grace, full of Christ, big-hearted, sincere, generous and pure, a group of men and women worth dying for --- and belonging to. **Come be with us!**

A fellow pilgrim and a flawed church member.

**“NOW IS THE TIME
for your people to turn back to you
and to be renewed in Christ your Son,
a time of grace and RECONCILIATION.”**