



THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10065

CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

November 13, 2016 — 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**THIS WEEKEND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, IS FOOD SUNDAY
WE WILL COLLECT MONEY FOR THE NEW YORK COMMON
PANTRY**

SECOND COLLECTION

Join us for coffee (tea), cake, and conversation on Sunday, November 13 after the 12:00 Noon Mass in the Priory Parolors.

PARISH COFFEE

This weekend, November 13, there will be a second collection to help the parish's Deficit Reduction. Thank you for your support.

PARISH STUDY

Parish Study continues this week, Tuesday, November 15 at 6:45 PM. We will continue our series of Parish Study lectures in the Parish Hall at St. Vincent Ferrer. We are focusing on the Book of Psalms.

SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, November 20, the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will be taken up at all the Masses. Your contribution is distributed by Catholic Charities to those who are seeking affordable housing, employment, food pantries, and numerous programs that make life a little easier for them. Please be generous.

SOLEMN DOMINICAN RITE MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY

On November 21, 7 PM at St. Vincent Ferrer, a Solemn Dominican Rite Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated. The Mass will be celebrated by members of the Fraternity of St. Vincent Ferrer, a French religious order inspired by the Dominican charism. A reception will take place after Mass with a chance to learn more about the Fraternity.

LECTURE BY FR. INNOCENT AT NYU

On December 3 at the Catholic Center at NYU (238 Thompson Street, New York, NY), Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P. will give an afternoon presentation titled: "The Rest is Said in Praise to God: Thomas Aquinas on the Rites of the Mass." The presentation consists of two talks at 1 PM and 2:30 PM, followed by Mass at 3:45 PM. All are welcome.

TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Members of the Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena invite ALL to an Annual Renewal/Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. To prepare for this Marian devotion a 33-day period of preparation starts on November 1, Feast of All Saints. After the 33 days of preparation, participants go to confession. On the day of consecration, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday, 8 December after the 5:15 PM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Father Walter will lead us in prayer for the consecration.

Prayers and meditations for participants can be done at their own time and place and are found in a booklet, "Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Christ through Mary" according to St. Louis de Montfort, for

MASS AND CONFESSIONS

ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,
6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,
6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

Parish Vespers

SUNDAY: 5:15 PM

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

LITURGY OF THE HOURS & OTHER PRAYER

ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS
AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

THURSDAY:

4:00 PM (HOLY HOUR)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:
9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm

St. Catherine of Siena
411 East 68th Street, NY, NY 10065
Office Hours:
Monday – Friday: 10 am–3 pm

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, OP
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP
Vicar

Rev. Albert Paretsky, OP
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers
Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson
Director of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP
Receptionist

Tony Hicks
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks
Church Custodian

ST. VINCENT FERRER HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680
Sr. Gail Morgan, OP
Principal

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, or online at www.svsc.info/register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. A baptism preparation class is held at St. Vincent Ferrer on the second Saturday of the month at 12 PM. Please call the Parish Office to register.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at www.svsc.info/weddings.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at www.svsc.info.

YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit www.frassatiny.com.

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
6:00 pm (Vigil) Alic & John
Cunningham (D)
8:00 am Christopher Dominiak (D)
12 pm Ramiro & Beatriz Mendes
(D)
6:00 pm Rev. Garvey Meade (D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14
8:00 am Deceased members of the
Kirby Family (D)
12:10 pm Patricia, Richard, &
Garrett Keegan (D)
6:00 pm Myriam Miranda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
8:00 am Joseph McGovern &
Kathleen Redmond (D)
12:10 pm For the Living &
Deceased members of the
O'Hara Family
6:00 pm For the Deceased members
of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman,
Donohoe, & Murphy Families (D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
8:00 am Rose Zaccaro
12:10 pm Mark Flesher (D)
6:00 pm Myriam Brandes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
8:00 am For the Deceased of the
Order
12:10 pm John Rice
6:00 pm For the Deceased members
of the Lay Fraternity of
St. Dominic (D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
8:00 am For the People of the Parish
12:10 pm Harry McKillop (D)
6:00 pm Mary Ellen & Patrick
Foye (D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
8:00 am James J. & Irene M.
Clarke (D)

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
4:00 pm (Vigil) Ana Maria Lauria
10:00 am For the patrons of the
Shrine of Saint Jude
5:00 pm Frank & Donna Santarsiero

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14
7:00 am For the Province of
St. Joseph
5:15 pm Flora Beating Pettella
Da Silva (D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
7:00 am Albert Gaberf
5:15 pm Robert Grady (D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
7:00 am Marianne T.
Bogunovich (D)
5:15 pm Marina Lucido & Maria
Cecilia Punzalan

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
7:00 am Marianne T.
Bogunovich (D)
5:15 pm Robert Grady (D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena
Purgatorial Society (D)
5:15 pm Frs. McHenry, Fitzsim-
mons, & Conroy (D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19
9:00 am Frances Lake (D)

PARISH PRAYER
INTENTIONS

*Contact the Parish Office to add a
name to this list*

Len Bencivenga, Annamarie
Brancaccio, Christopher Heath,
Frances Jacobellis, Rev. Chris
Johnson, O.P., Elizabeth Johnson,
Helen Johnson, Carolyn Kelly,
John Kelly, Cobby Knight, Sarah
McDermott, Anthony Mendola,
Stephen Osso, Rosalia Pernice,
Maria Guillen de Ribone, & Aquila
Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls
of Jordan Bayer, King Bhumibol
Adulyadej, Sr. Margaret Ann Landry,
RSHM, Seangdoen Naempranam,
Nancy Shea, & William James White,
and the souls of all our recently
deceased.

We continue to pray for the sick, the
dying, and their families in Memorial
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the
Hospital for Special Surgery, and
Rockefeller University Hospital.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

The seven-day candles are available for
an offering of \$15 each.

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps
Rene Concepcion (d); Patrick &
Agnes Donoghue (d); Ramon &
Fernando Gonzalez (l); William J.
Schwede, Sr. (d); For the People of
the Parish; Intention of Donor; Spe-
cial Intention

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna
Jack Ryan Keegan

St. Vincent - Pieta Lamp
Well-being of Christians in the
Middle East

St. Catherine - Mary Candle
Priscilla Ventigan

*Mass Intentions may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and in the Church
Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

LOOKING AT THE SHAPE OF A DOMINICAN PARISH

Last week in these pages I tried to articulate the spiritual foundations of a Dominican Parish.

- **Among these, the concept of “order” itself provides the bedrock.** Since the Friars and Sisters live within the Dominican way of life, they will tend to generate ministries in which the community provides unity and continuity, not an individual.
- **The Dominican Community possesses a fraternal or sororal character, especially in its governance.** Any of its endeavors will feature consultation before, collaboration during, and review after. Thus, while a Brother of the Order serves as Pastor, he will seek to integrate conversation into significant decision making, especially through the councils and committees of the parish. Such an approach accepts real deficits of efficiency in exchange for allowing consensus to emerge.
- **This approach to affairs relies on a spiritual backbone of assertive non-dominance** in which members of the parish community contribute gifts of authority, talent, wealth, and personality. While they might otherwise use these gifts to achieve and retain pre-eminence, among us they employ them sacrificially so that the group as a whole may thrive.

I would like now to build upon these foundations to set out what I view as essential elements of the culture of our parish. These are things I have learned over the last six years of being a pastor; and the last two years of our parish merger have brought them home to me with ever greater clarity. What follows is a draft for your consideration. The final will follow in due course. Like any norms these statements point to what we have achieved and make explicit what we have not yet accomplished.

Our Parish derives life from the charism of the Order of Preachers.

- The celebration of the Liturgy takes pride of place
- With the reverence due to this encounter with God.
- With the awareness demanded by our common baptismal priesthood.
- With the concentration on the Word of God called for by all who love study.
- With the humility that avoids triumphalism.
- We foster personal prayer and devotion by keeping our churches open, encouraging the rosary and Eucharistic Adoration, and by giving our shrines and side altars adequate attention.
- The Life of Study plays a central role in the life of the Community of the Parish.
- Projects of common study are integral to our common life.
- These will include Sacred Scripture, and other topics of ecclesial significance.
- Study marks our formation programs at all levels. The presentation of doctrine always makes social and liturgical connections.
- We try to make study a habit of mind, leading to a contemplative regard for persons, situations, and things.
- In the running of councils and committees we follow a fraternal pattern of seeking consensus.
- While the Community of the Parish receives benefactions gratefully, we regard parishioners as members of a community rather than as donors to a charity.

Our Parish is essentially diverse.

- Our parish life stands at a crossroads of classes, ideologies, ethnicities, and generations. The Order, the city, and the neighborhood each possess a cosmopolitan character and the life of our parish embraces it.
- The diversity of the local church matches that of our environment. Alternative types of architecture, music, and preaching are available to Catholics in our area, and we acknowledge they may use these to their benefit.
- We challenge ourselves to welcome all who Christ sends, without partiality.

Our Parish is only complete as part of the Catholic Church

- We are never in competition with other Catholic entities. It fulfills us to work in concert with the parishes that neighbor us, and with other ministries serving God's People.
- We maintain an open and cooperative relationship with the Archdiocese of New York, of which we form a part.
- Especially through the Cardinal's Appeal, Second Collections, and the work of our Social Concerns Committee, we seek to be attached to and responsive to the world around us

Our presence beyond ourselves reflects the Missionary Imperatives of the Order of Preachers.

- We regularly hold events open to the wider public.
- We undertake efforts to reach the unchurched and the lapsed.
- We are as generous as we can be in making available the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Parish seeks a way of careful stewardship

- We seek to meet ordinary expenses through ordinary income.
- We practice financial transparency within the parish and with the Archdiocese.
- We practice discipline in undertaking capital projects as they are needed and according to a coherent strategy.
- We have careful regard for the artistic heritage confided to us in our two beautiful churches.
- Our strategies of investment feature fiduciary caution and take account of Catholic teaching.
- We practice justice in the compensation of employees.

Please ponder these points at your leisure. At some point after the turn of the year, the Pastoral Council will begin to wrestle with them. When finalized, they will become part of a public document so that we can always hold ourselves accountable.

Peace!

Fr. Walter

TO OUR PARISHIONERS.....

FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Even though we just asked you for bingo gifts which you so wonderfully donated, we are asking again.

For many years, the Social Concerns Committee has hosted a Christmas party for the residents of the Park Avenue Women's Shelter and, as part of the celebration, we have been fortunate enough to provide a gift package containing one large and two smaller gifts for each of our guests. As we start preparing for this year's event taking place on Saturday, December 3rd, we would welcome any donations from the parish to put toward our gifts.

Please note that all donated gifts must be brand new. Examples of good gift items include:

- Sweaters (sizes M, L, XL, 1X)
- Small bottles of perfume
- Scarves
- Sweat suits (sizes L, XL, 1X)
- Pajama sets (sizes L, XL, 1X)
- Hats and gloves
- Jackets (sizes L, XL, 1X)
- Purses
- Lightly worn costume jewelry
- Gift boxes (all sizes; in particular need large boxes)

If you are interested in contributing, please drop off the gifts at the Priory labelled Shelter Party (if it is a weekend, please leave with the guards) no later than Friday, November 18th.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make this holiday season extra special for the shelter residents!

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED FOR PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Parish Christmas Fair will take place from Friday, December 2, through Sunday, December 4, in St. Dominic Hall at the Church of St. Catherine of Siena.

Donations are still needed of new (or gently used items) which can be sold or raffled at the Christmas Fair. Popular items in past years have included jewelry, bottles of wine or liquor, handmade items, electronics, women's handbags, sports memorabilia or tickets, kitchen or household items, children and baby items, and restaurant gift certificates. All donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office, either at St. Catherine's or St. Vincent's. While items will be accepted anytime before the fair, please try to drop off your donation before the weekend of November 12-13, so that items can be sorted in advance of the fair.

Parishioners are also being invited to assist as volunteers to help set up, clean up, and manage the various tables at the Christmas Fair. Christmas Fair committee members will be in the vestibules of both churches after all weekend Masses beginning on November 5-6, to invite you to sign up for one or more time slots to assist. Many hands make light work - come enjoy an opportunity to help support this festive parish event! For more information about the fair, or to sign up to volunteer, please e-mail Kim Quatela at kburde3@gmail.com.

THE HIDDEN WORLD OF HANS MEMLING'S REUNITED ALTARPIECE

Dutch scholar and curator at the Morgan Library & Museum, Ilona van Tuinen will explore the hidden world revealed in this enchanting piece, as well as unravel the tangled tale of this sacred piece on the secular art market.

Tuesday, November 15th, 7:00 PM
Church of St. Thomas More (65 E 89th St.)
Painted on the eve of the Reformation.
Dismembered and scattered on the art market.
Reunited in New York City.

Discussion will take place in the Rochester Room. For more info, see the link on olcgstm.org.

FAITH AND ETHICS FORUMS - 2016-2017 AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL STUDENTS OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

How can I guide patients, families and colleagues in decisions about complex moral issues?

Why are moral distress and moral relativism so evident in today's health care environment?

Why are conscience clauses important in the delivery of health care services?

What is happening to the dignity and freedom of the sick in the new health reform agenda?

How does the Catholic moral tradition inform and guide my practice?

These and many more questions are the focus of a series of small group discussions facilitated by the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York. Monthly discussions provide a vehicle and a place where all students of the health professions (including interns, residents and fellows) of all faiths can come together for discussions about faith and contemporary ethical issues in health care which affect their lives as persons and as clinicians in a continuously changing health care delivery system.

Please join us on Sunday, November 20 at 6:30 PM when Mary Susan Brady, MD, FACS, Associate Attending in the Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center will present on Christianity and Healing a Surgical Perspective.

As a reminder Forums are held on the third Sunday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM (except for June, July and August) in St. Dominic Hall following the 5:00 PM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 411 E. 68th Street, New York, NY. There is no charge for this series but an RSVP email is required. Light refreshments are served. Forums for the 2016-17 academic year are scheduled for: November 20, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 23 and May 21.

For more information or if you would like to participate please contact Bro. Ignatius Perkins, OP, Executive Director (brotherignatius@dfhcmny.org) or one of the Student Coordinators: Grace McNerney (gamac612@gmail.com), Jessica Edgecomb (Jessica_Edgecomb@nymc.edu).

COLLECTION

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

Regular Offertory: \$14,362

Attendance: 1101



NY
COMMON
PANTRY

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



***OR Donate \$35.00
to help provide a
full Thanksgiving
meal to a family in
need.**

Last pick-up day will be

Wednesday,

November 16th.

Please Donate**:

- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- „ Rice (1 pound)
- Gravy (Turkey Preferred)
- Corn Bread Mix
- Stuffing Mix
- „ Oatmeal (1 1/2 oz.)
- „ Cake; Brownie Mix
- Frosting
- „ Pasta (1 pound)
- „ Canned Beans
- „ Dry Beans (1 pound)



BONUS ITEMS

Olive Oil
Garlic Powder
Poultry Seasoning

****Please no glass jars, and if possible, please store
collection in sturdy boxes for easy transport****



We will have bins at St. Vincent Ferrer & St. Catherine of Siena. Checks or cash can be left at the Priory, with the guard, or put in the collection marked "Thanksgiving Drive." Please make checks payable to New York Common Pantry



DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

EXCELLENT MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS of Catholic health care ministry is the administration of Holy Communion. This much needed ministry and sacred charge is carried out by bishops, priests, and deacons who, by virtue of their ordination, serve as ordinary ministers of Holy Communion. It is also carried out by extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who are commissioned to assist those ordinary ministers in certain circumstances. One circumstance in which the service of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion is both necessary and of great benefit is when Holy Communion is to be administered to women and men whose health is being care for in hospitals, other health care facilities, or private homes.

ALL MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, whether ordinary or extraordinary, are capable of exercising that ministry either well or poorly. To exercise their ministry well, it is necessary that they acquire and develop particular virtues. By God's grace and by their freely chosen actions, ministers of Holy Communion can grow in the virtues by which they readily and consistently do what is good, confirm their own good character, are built up in Christian holiness, and perform their ministry with excellence. With the help of St. Thomas Aquinas, I would like to propose some of the virtues that best characterize excellent ministers of Holy Communion.

Reverence and Adoration

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, adoration is an exterior act of the virtue of religion, by which human beings fittingly reverence God (*Summa Theologiae* II-II q.84, a.1). Adoration is an exterior act of religion, meaning it has to do with the bodily actions by which reverence for God is shown.

Of course, the reverence of human beings for God has to do, first and foremost, with the interior devotion of their hearts and minds. But since human beings are composed of both soul and body, the interior dispositions of their hearts and minds are both expressed and reinforced by bodily actions. So, for example, when faithful men and women make the sign of the cross to invoke the Triune God, or kneel down to express humility, or beat their breasts to demonstrate repentance, their outward actions both express and reinforce the devotion that is in the interiority of their hearts and minds.

Those physical, bodily acts of adoration have a special importance when it comes to showing reverence for the Eucharist. For, in the Eucharist, God the Son is really present in what appears to us as a physical substance. God comes to us in physicality of a sacrament that we can see and touch and taste.

Our response to God must necessarily be physical. God shows us His invisible love through the visible bread and wine. We are to respond by showing the reverence of our invisible souls through the actions of our visible bodies.

Therefore, when excellent ministers of Holy Communion approach the tabernacle to obtain or repose the Blessed Sacrament, they genuflect or bow in adoration of their Eucharistic Lord. When they walk down the street or through a hospital or nursing home, they are continually aware of the real presence of Jesus Christ whom they reverently carry on their persons. They express that reverence through bodily acts of adoration: their careful handling of the Blessed Sacrament in their administration of Holy Communion, their protection of the Body and Blood of Christ from any mistreatment, their bodily manifestation of the joy and kindness of the Lord whose ministers they are privileged to be.

Magnanimity

St. Thomas says, "Magnanimity by its very name denotes the stretching forth of the mind to great things" and, "An act is simply and absolutely great when it consists in the best use of the greatest thing" (*ST* II-II q.129, a.1). What thing could be greater than the Sacrament in which the Incarnate God is really present? What better use could be made of that Blessed Sacrament than to administer it to God's faithful people as Holy Communion?

Every virtue has to do with making the best use of something or acting in the best way toward someone. For example, temperance has to do with making the best use of food and drink, and justice is about treating other people in the best way. Sometimes the objects of virtuous actions are small things. A piece of chocolate can be the object of a temperate act; a dollar bill can be the object of a just act. Those actions can be great, however, due to the great virtue with which they are done. When they are done by souls infused with charity, they can even be acts of divine love.

Magnanimity is therefore not the greatest of the virtues. Charity is. Because the greatness of a person's actions and character depend more on the virtue in that person's soul than the action that person is performing. That is why Jesus said that the poor widow gave more than all the rest (Mk. 12:41-44).

Ministers of Holy Communion have chosen to do something truly great. They renew that magnanimous choice every time they exercise their ministry. By the grace of God, their hearts and minds "stretch forth" to the greatest of things.

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