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## GOD'S MARVELLOUS DEEDS IN OUR WORLD

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On the occasion of the Eighteenth Festival of the Foire Brayonne where fellowship and festivity rub elbows together, I want to wish you memorable get-togethers. On Sunday, August 4, at the 9:30 A.M. Mass to be held at the Place des Artisans, we shall together render thanks for God's marvellous love. "Nothing will ever separate us from Love." May this festival also make us discover the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit among and around us.

### « WE ARE A PRIESTLY PEOPLE »

*« The liturgy is the summit towards which the Church's action is directed; it is also the source whence all its power comes. »*

In joining the people of God through faith and baptism, the baptised person is given a share in the people's unique vocation: its priestly vocation. Christ Jesus, the high priest chosen from among humankind, has made of the new people a kingdom of priests. Through regeneration and anointing of the Holy Spirit, the baptised are consecrated to become a spiritual home and a holy priesthood. All we have received, all that exists in the universe we can offer to God as an acceptable sacrifice; we want that through the Holy Spirit our sacrifice of praise rise like incense before the Father. We acknowledge that no one could pray or even pronounce the name of Jesus without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who prompts us to cry out to God by calling Him "Father."

### A THANKS-GIVING PEOPLE

Since the beginning of the world love and life have never ceased uniting and nourishing one another at the fountain of the Holy Spirit. According to God's will and in the power of this same Holy Spirit, Jesus, through his death, brought life to the world. And so it is fitting that we always recall the work of the Trinity: « The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, » and that we loudly proclaim our gratitude and joy. In remembering Jesus we recall how, led by the Holy Spirit, he never stopped giving thanks to his Father for all that he saw and heard. He said to his disciples: « Blest are the eyes that see what you see; blest are the ears that hear what you hear. » Filled with gratitude, we too want to bless our God because the Almighty continues to work His marvellous deeds. And like Mary inspired by the Holy Spirit, we cry out, « *His love is from age to age.* » Not only must we be a people in friendship with God, a people in a state of grace: we must equally be a thanks-giving people. May our assemblies be harmonised with these praises that come from a grateful heart. Inspired by the Spirit, may we proclaim in our songs and hymns all those good, great, and holy things which the Lord has worked among his people.

### A PEOPLE CALLED TO HOLINESS

We are a people called to holiness, to the greatest intimacy possible. Every eucharistic celebration gradually leads us to Jesus' great self-offering to his Father: this is the summit of every eucharist, what we call the doxology. All of Christian praise is summed up in a very compact formula, a trinitarian formula to which the entire assembly is joined as it cries out: AMEN! It is through Jesus, with him, and in him that all honour and glory are

given to God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. A height without compare where the divine encounters the human; an incomparable encounter surpassing even that of Sinai or the burning bush. At the conclusion of every remembrance of the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus, all of humankind - that of yesterday, today, and tomorrow - intimately united to the thrice-holy God in a new and everlasting covenant, is sealed in the blood of Jesus poured out for all. This great work is there before our eyes; the mystery of faith is truly great. It is thanks to the Holy Spirit that everything happens in this way. Chosen to serve in the presence of God, we are gathered together by the Holy Spirit into the one body of Christ.

**« WE ARE A PROPHETIC PEOPLE »**

*« The Church founded by Christ is nourished by the Spirit. Sprung from the pierced heart of Christ, it is a visible sign to the world, on Pentecost. »*

The holy people of God shares in Christ's prophetic function. His holy people is prophetic especially through the supernatural sense of faith which is the faith of the entire people when it binds itself to the faith that has been passed on, deepens its understanding of it, and witnesses to it in the midst of the world. As members of the people of God, we are nourished by the bread of prayer, the bread of the Word. We come to this Word of Life to welcome it into the deepest part of our beings and we actualise it on behalf of the world thanks to this abiding presence of the Spirit. This Word becomes prayer and witness. We pray for all humankind, we pray for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who suffer the most. We pray for the living and the dead. Nourished in this way, we are then ready to witness and act in the name of Jesus.

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