

Dear Friends,

This past Saturday we had a bi-lingual celebration of the Mass and over 300 people were in attendance. The music was excellent, and a spirit of joy filled the church. What a miracle life is. In the diversity of our cultures we are still able to celebrate the unity of our faith.

Many homes in our area are decorated for Halloween, and one of the most interesting decorations is spider webs. I'm not a big fan of spiders. I especially do not appreciate spider webs. It's a pet peeve for me to be walking down the street and all of a sudden I feel the strand of a web go across my face. We never see those strands of webs connecting tree trunks to porches, they're just there and we feel them when we walk into them.

Those invisible strands that connect tree trunks to porches are symbolic of the bond of grace that unites us to God's heart. Thomas Merton once reflected on the reality of how we are bound to God by something like a strand of grace called love. This strand of grace is the source of our lives, without it we would never have existed at all. This strand of grace that unites us to God's heart is his desire, his longing, his deep and abiding hope that we will be with him forever. It is infinitely more powerful than a spider's web. It is also malleable enough to mingle with the strands that unite others to God, and so in marriage the two become one flesh through that bond of grace that is so intimately united with God's heart as well.

When we celebrated that bi-lingual Mass with mixed languages, and mixed cultures, we were all together in a place nearer to God's heart than any other place around here, the altar on which we shared in the Holy Sacrifice of Christ, the bread of life. A beautiful web was woven this past Saturday night; it became a living tapestry of grace, joy, unity and love.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel