O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine,

all praise and all Thanksgiving for evermore be thine.

*Carissima Famiglia*, my dearest family

Jesus asked in today’s gospel, “*Where is my guestroom that I may eat the Passover with my disciples*?” Here is the guestroom where he comes tonight to eat His Passover meal with us. A Passover meal in which death and sin and brokenness and evil is “passed over” and we are carried with Jesus into a new way, a new way of being. Not the Passover that only marked the people of Israel. For they experienced on the “outside” what it was like to be called by God - the blood of precious bulls was taken by Moses as we heard in the first reading from the book of Exodus and it was thrown on the altar and the altar ran with blood. And then the people were asked, “will you follow the Lord and all he has commanded?” and they said, “whatever the Lord commands we will”. And that same bull’s blood was thrown over them and they stood there with blood pouring down their faces and saw blood pouring down the altar and they knew that they were at least marked on the outside as one family, as one covenant sharing the same life- because blood is “life” - as God. They were to follow and that they were to be ruled by this God they knew. But that was not the end of God’s plan, for that was just living religion *on the outside.* That is just being those who strive to live according to the *rules* of God that flow and can to easily stay only on the *outside*.

God has prepared for us, a higher and more wonderful gift. For the Lord brings us not out into the desert but into *this* Passover Room and in this Passover Place, Christ Jesus goes into the heavenly place not with the blood of something else, bringing to God something else, but with his own divine Blood. Nothing external here, no metaphor, no *imaginative* way of understanding a relationship with God. No, Jesus takes His very Blood into the heavenly places. And God sends that Blood back to us, that Body back to us. Not to be poured on our heads but to be consumed so that we are consumed by what we eat. This the world cannot understand. Many of our brothers and sisters who proclaim themselves Catholic do not understand. This is not playacting. What we meet – WHO we meet - is Christ Jesus who *really is God and who really comes*, Body and Soul and Divinity. God life. He really comes not as *outside rules* but as *inside transforming saving love*. He really comes to be within us tonight.

Peyton, Jesus is saying to you, “I want to make my Passover meal with you for the first time in your heart”. Jesus comes for the first time to give you the gift that human person could have thought of. Oh, others see God as a lawgiver or a creator, others see God as a vague force in the world or some principle. You know that God is Jesus who loves you. And like anyone who really loves, brings all of Himself to you. To give to us and given to us we must bring it to others. Peyton, do we do that? Not perfectly. Far from perfectly.

This week past was marked on the doorsteps of our church through of empty shoes that reminded us of how too easy it is for people to stop the reality of Christ Jesus giving himself to us from flowing out of themselves. We are caught up in feelings and we must [pause]- like all folks who have moments of deep feelings and anger and upset and protest

my heart was ripped, my guts were ripped out,

the swearwords that were addressed to me

the tears that came to us

it is a flood of emotion.

But no good things are ever done in such emotion,

for it is too easy to manipulate and do things quickly that mean little or nothing.

Words even gestures are ultimately nothing.

Blood may be running down our face as a sign [but that is *ultimately only a sign.* Orange shirts are powerful, but only outward signs].

We are people of a God who is real. Who makes our actions real.

And we see what happens when we are [only words and signs on the outside) and not faithful- purely faithful - to Jesus and Jesus’ Church. And [by Church] I mean the Holy Church whose Holiness is that of being the Body of Christ in the World.

When we see that we in collaborating with powers of this earth [with] government policies that are external and do not consider God, when we walk and have our imagination shaped by [these powers] then we like Judas betrayed God’s Church.

A Prime Minister who claims to be Catholic is calling on the Pope to apologize and many of us say, “why can’t the Holy Father apologize?” There are two answers to that:

Number one, the Pope is the Vicar of Christ [not merely the representative of an earthly association]. Christ Jesus in his holiness dwelling in you and me really has nothing to apologize for. Jesus is God and perfect, but those who proclaim his name, those humans who have given themselves to serve [Him] - they have something to apologize for.

The second answer is that for 30 years now, a beginning has been made. Long before governments were doing actions of [issuing] words of apology, the Church in all the dioceses and religious communities that participated in the horrendous government policy of exterminating a culture through residential schools, communities who thought that perhaps they could make them somehow good? – I don’t know - but all those who did that have not only been saying but *doing* apology. More than that, we are Christians…. we don’t ‘apologize’ – apologies [by word only] are for the weak. We *REPENT*.

We say, “Sorry? … Not enough! Not enough!”

We cry out to God and say, “Forgive us O Holy One in whom we live [as members of your Body], for we have not lived as holy people. Forgive us, for we have been the agents of the world that kills children!”

From a book that I recommend everyone read, 21 *Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act,*

*“*the schools primarily managed by Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and United churches, and the government wanting to shed the financial responsibility of Indians were chronically underfunded and the buildings were drafty and unsanitary and food for the children was insufficient and often rotten. To augment the finances of the school the Act included the statute that allowed the government to collect any treaty annuities due to the children and use the money to maintain the school that the child attended. The schools were also breeding grounds for diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza. The children suffering (*this is horrible to read*) from the trauma of the absolute loss of everything of their family in their lives had severely impacted immune systems which left them vulnerable to disease. They could not survive in this harsh and terrifying environment and so the children died at such a rate that it came to the attention of Dr. Peter Bryce a medical doctor hired by the Department of the Interior … the report provided grim facts but was never published by the Department of Indian Affairs quite likely due to its damning nature and recommendations for expensive renovations… in 1907 the same year that Bryce made his report the *National Saturday Night* reported on residential schools observing that ‘Indian boys and girls are dying like flies’. Even more seldom shows as large a percentage of fatalities is that the does the education system we have imposed on our Indian wards…But the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Duncan Campbell Scott, reasserted his support writing,

“it is readily acknowledged that Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by habituating so closely in the residential schools and that they die at a much higher rate than in their villages. But this alone does not justify change policy of this Department which is geared towards ***a final solution of our Indian problem.”***

(Bob Joseph, *21 Things You Should Know About the Indian Act*)

Cultural Genocide. They wouldn’t pay for the bodies of the children to go home. They were buried in paupers’ fields not mass graves. One-by-one with crosses that might have had their names on them but now are gone. Maybe it is the case that always government does this. Our education system is collaborating with a government right now that is burying children in a culture that will take away their names. A culture that a government [is seeking to promote] as it is seeking for the *final solution of the Jesus problem.* The government that came in and took children from their families in order to make them white, a government we collaborated with as a church, that now asks us in our schools and in our lives to collaborate as they remove children from their families and their [families’] hearts. As they turn to make them not Christians but good shoppers.

And where does this leave our first Nations? Senator Murray Sinclair asked this today saying, “the upset will pass in two weeks and the waters will still be undrinkable on the reserves”. The emotion will come and go … and fake Christians like Prime Minister Trudeau will continue to provide for the abortion of First Nations children and leave them in unmarked graves… or garbage cans.

And Jesus really present in the world and the Eucharist will stand and call his people not to be shaped by words and ideas but to be transformed by the Body of God to be bearers of Love and Truth in the world.

Peyton comes to us a child of the First Nations. Peyton comes to us as a sign of our future hope. Where will we be? I know where Jesus will be: loving her strengthening her, and showing her her dignity.

And I want all of us to humbly be there with Jesus.