

June 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The month of June this year brings us significant liturgical solemnities. The rich doctrinal Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ challenges us to pause, listen to and contemplate the profound teaching of Jesus about the gift of his own body and blood as food that nourishes us toward holiness.

We also celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an event that felicitously unites this popular devotion with theological depth. It was traditional – and in some countries, still is – to consecrate families to the Sacred Heart, whose image they would keep in their home. The devotion is rooted in the mystery of the incarnation; it is precisely through the heart of Jesus that the love of God for humanity is sublimely manifested.

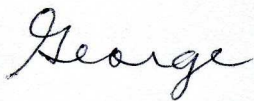
In addition, we mark the birth of St. John the Baptist, the only saint whose birth is commemorated because it marked the beginning of the fulfillment of the divine promises. His feast reminds us that our life is entirely and always related to Christ and is fulfilled by accepting him. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30): the Baptist’s words are a program for all of us.

At the end of the month, the church solemnly venerates the Apostles Peter and Paul. The feast helps us recall how these two served as models for the understanding of the early Christian mission. It likewise marks the close of *The Pauline Year*, during which we have highlighted Paul’s contribution to the spread of Christianity in the first century of the church.

During this month, Brother Ed Brink and I will be giving two retreats to our brothers in the District of India as well as visiting the communities and ministries of the District. Please keep this visit in your prayers.

May the summer months bring you refreshment, renewal and much peace!

Affectionately,



George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life