



# This is My Body

## One Body, One Spirit in Christ

## The Depth of Our Souls

Greetings! Summer is in full swing as I begin to write this, but the weather still can't seem to make up its mind whether or not it wants to be warm or cool. The only good thing is that my wife Chris and I don't have to run the air conditioner constantly so maybe we'll save a couple of bucks. Now, not having grown up with it, I think whole house air conditioning is the greatest, but for Chris, she would rather not use the air conditioner since she prefers the warmth of summer. The downside is that since her body doesn't regulate its temperature very well the warmth continues to increase until we have a tough time cooling her down. So there's always that struggle between us. But warm or cool, we always pause to thank God for the beautiful days he's given us.

And speaking about nice weather, one thing I've done regularly since my teen years is to wash my car. Given the fact that a car is probably the biggest investment a person makes other than a home, I've always taken pride in maintaining it and keeping it clean. I consider it (like everything I supposedly "own") a gift from God himself... I even kind of dedicated it to Him with a license plate that reads: JOHN6-54!



The thing is, it's a big, black 1995 Impala SS, and I don't know about you, but in my opinion, there is nothing better looking (automobile-wise) than a clean, shiny, black car. The downside is they seem harder to *keep* clean. Which brings me to my point. I'm out there the other day putting a terrific shine on the body of that big, black Impala and I noticed how "deep" the blackness of that paint looked when it was clean.

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## Deacon Tim Killmeyer



Deacon Tim Killmeyer, ordained in 1999 is assigned by Bishop Zubik to the Diocesan Dept. for Persons with Disabilities and serves Holy Trinity Parish in Robinson Twp. Deacon Tim's wife, Chris, was injured in a minor automobile accident in 1980 that left her paralyzed from the neck down and dependent upon a portable ventilator to breath. Chris is pretty much at peace with life as it is and lives it as abundantly as possible. Deacon Tim cares for Chris and parishioners in the Diocese with special needs.

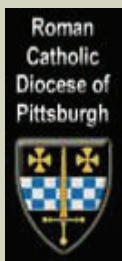
## This is My Body:

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Like you could almost reach far into it. And I had the thought that, although the most common idea of a “clean” soul is one that is white when it is washed clean, maybe a better metaphor for a clean, beautiful soul is something like the shiny, deep blackness of that car. You know, we talk about “looking into the soul.” Well, you can’t picture that with white, but my experience washing the Impala tells me we *can* imagine it with black.

That thought led me to another... the idea that try as I might, I just can’t retain that “deepness” of the black; I only drive on the nicest of days, I try to avoid potholes and mud-puddles, I don’t park it under trees where it might collect sap and “other” stuff, but still, after driving it day after day, in the best of conditions, over time the car still accumulates a thin

layer of dust on it that hinders my ability to look deep into the paint, unless I take the time to clean it again.

And like that shiny black car, the same thing happens to our clean shiny souls. We try to avoid the “mud puddles” of life, the occasions of sin that dirty and damage our relationship with our Lord. But just going out into the world day-after-day, exposes us to things that, even though they don’t separate us from God, still make it harder to see God, who lives in the depths of our souls. Just like that layer of dust that builds up on our cars. So we need to “shine ‘em up” a little bit so we can see God more clearly.



How do we do that? Well, Christ and his Church gives us the soapy wash along with a dry towel and then some wax to give our souls that deep shine. I’m talking about the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Some of us are fortunate enough to be able to drop by our local parish whenever we want to participate in these Sacraments, while others have a more difficult time in that respect. I would urge you, if you fall into the latter category, to call your local parish and make arrangements for a priest to visit you for a 15 or 20 minute “wash and shine.” (Just kidding!) But seriously, any priest would be glad to bring the Sacraments to you if you are unable to get to church yourself. At any rate, Summer is a good time to deepen your relationship with the Lord and there is no better way than the Sacraments.

## Prayer and Reflection

DEACON TIM

### For your prayer . . .

Loving Jesus, I thank you for all the gifts you’ve given me in my life, especially the gift of yourself in the Eucharist. Help me to reflect the deepness of your divine love within me in all the circumstances of my life. I ask this in your name.

Amen.



### For your reflection . . .

- *What parts of my life needs “a little scrubbing” so that I might better reflect the life of God within me?*
- *Do I recognize God’s gifted presence in those around me?*
- *Do I ask God to wash me clean from the “mud-puddles” of my life?*