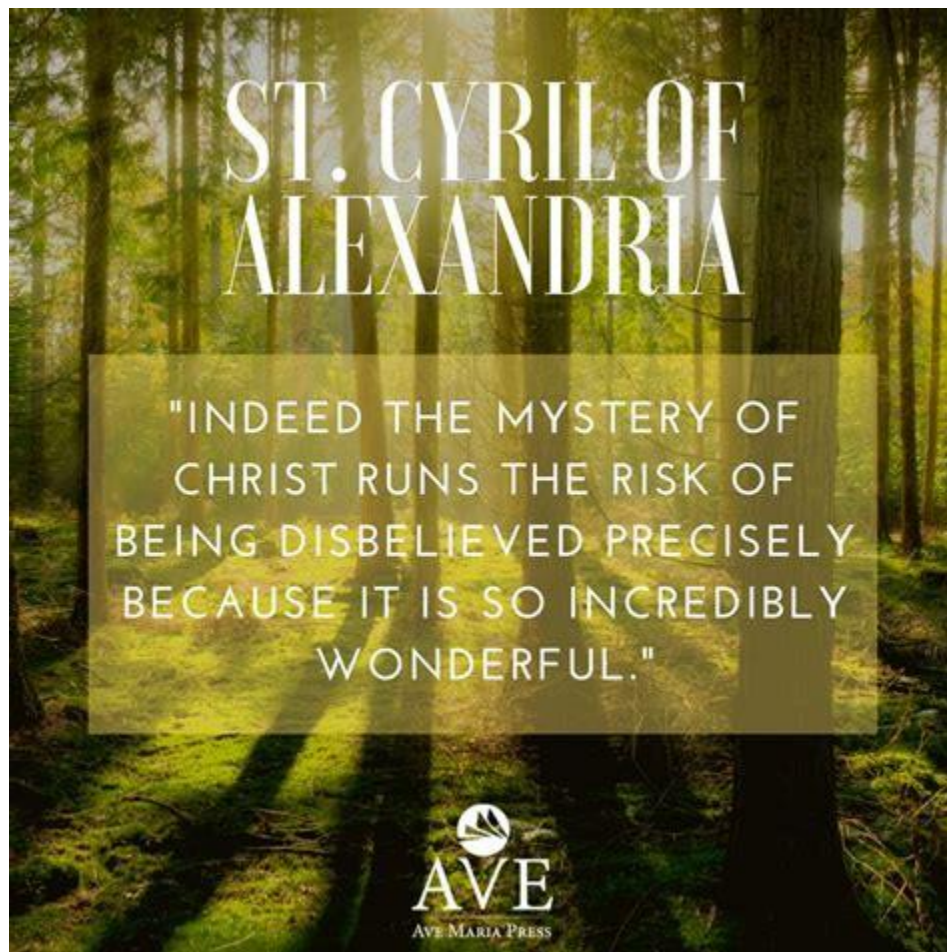


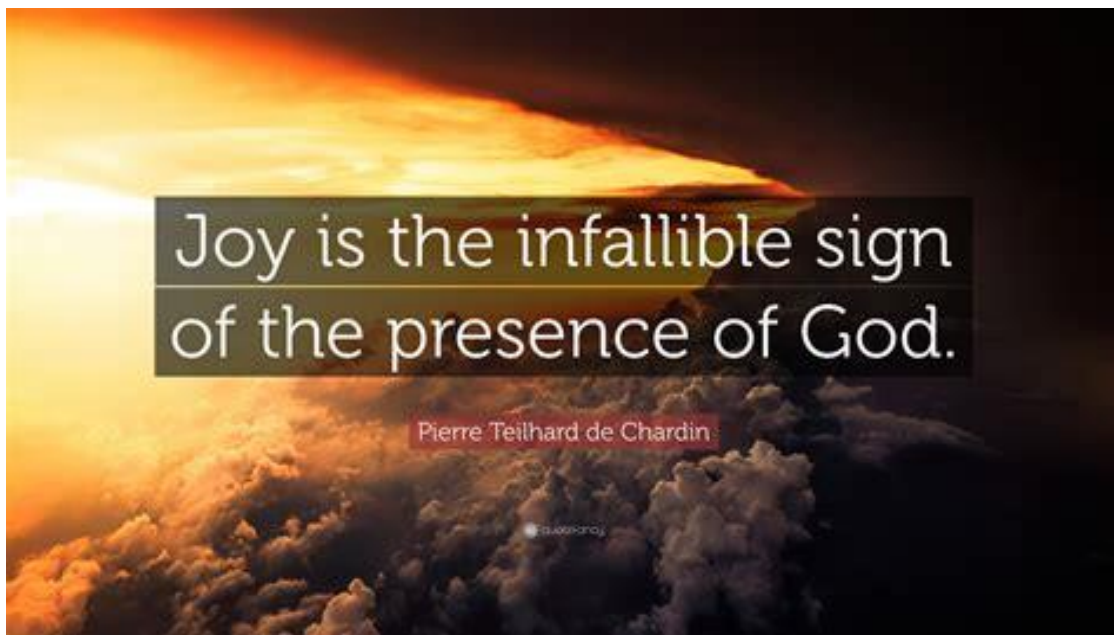
FROM FATHER JOHN: *“Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises. Sing to him a new song; pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of gladness. The LORD brings to naught the plans of nations; he foils the designs of peoples. But the plan of the LORD stands forever; the design of his heart, through all generations. But see, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine.” ~ Psalm 33*

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you!!!



Our lord and God spoke to us through the great prophet Ezekiel and said *“I will make with them a covenant of peace; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will multiply them, and put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”* (Ezekiel 37:26 – 27)

When we take time to think about it and pray about, it is truly amazing that our God is always present among us, dwelling within in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The truth is simply this; the Lord our God never abandons us, even if we feel despair, even if we feel alone, even if we feel like there is no one there for us, our Lord never abandons us.



This is the great mystery of life and of faith; that our Father in heaven is always with us and loves us both unconditionally and abundantly.

But the thing about mystery is that it is not like math or science with exact answers that we can figure out through the use of our minds. Mystery is something that we have to let come to us and be open to rather than trying to figure it out. What we're called to do is let the Mystery of God's love overwhelm us so that we can react to it, participate in it and share it with one another. We are called to welcome God's love into our lives in such a way that it transforms us into who God wants us to be.

When our Lord Jesus entered into the world, he didn't explain everything about human life and the human condition to us. Rather, he entered into it, shared it with us, shared all the trials and tribulation of human life as well as all the triumphs of human life. He gave our lives meaning as he transformed death into life.

When Pope St. John Paul II visited the United States in 1995, he said something that has always stayed with me. “There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us. And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfillment in the resurrection. This is our *faith*. This is our *witness* before the world.”

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

