***Vigil of the Assumption
Friday, August 14, 2020***

***Renewal of Profession of Br. Thomas (Tom) Junis, SDB***

Tonight we begin the celebration of Our Mother whose “Fiat” has been brought to perfection in the singular grace of her assumption, body and soul, into heaven.

Tonight we contemplate the gift of God’s “Fiat” to each of us as He has called us through our Baptism into this loving relationship of fidelity and grace which reaches a deeper level of fulfillment in our religious consecration.

Tonight, we contemplate the three-fold mystery of life’s purpose: mission, community, commitment:

* Mission – to find and discern where God is calling us to fulfill His destiny within us;
* Community – to model our life on the relationship present in the Trinity, where bonds of selfless love bring together the singleness of purpose of God;
* Commitment – Mary’s “Fiat” remained steadfast because her commitment of bearing the Son of God and nurturing him found was made joyful in hearing the Word of God and keeping it.

What a fitting night to celebrate the gift of religious consecration and witness the renewal of Br. Tom’s “Fiat!” Mary’s Assumption gives all Christian men and women hope that the sinfulness of our first parents will not end in tragedy but will end in salvation, redemption, and resurrection. Our religious life is a sign to the world of what we will later be when all things come to light. Br. Tom, you have been chosen out of the world and have accepted the commitment given to you by the Lord to be changed…and then re-inserted back into the world as a sign of hope for the hopeless, sight for the blind, freedom to captives in sin.

Like Our Lady’s “Fiat” that filled her completely with the overshadowing of God as she prepared to bring the life of the Son of God into the world, so too the renewal of your “Fiat” tonight fills you with grace upon grace, namely, the Son of God, filling you with enduring love.

And as you are filled, so you must fill others, especially the young, with the knowledge and love of God given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chances are this mystery of your religious consecration fills you with awe, maybe even a little fear, as you think of the responsibilities that you have “to hear the Word of God” and keep at at every moment and every day. You are most likely aware of your weaknesses and your sinfulness at times and wonder, “How will I ever carry out this call from God?” You can do this BECAUSE of God “who has given us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, tonight, like David in the first reading, we are commanded to make a noise of rejoicing, because the ark of the covenant of your baptism in religious consecration is about to be renewed in you. You, Br. Tom, are the tent, pitched now among the young and your family and collaborators in southeast Louisiana! Let your life and your witness be a blessing and a sign of hope to others.

Our Blessed Mother, our Queen of Heaven and Earth, is the model of what we can become with the grace of God. Tonight, become even more her beloved Son. Listen to the Word of God with faith, and even when you go through difficulties and trials, even when it seems the world stands in opposition to you, rely on the gift you have been given in your religious consecration, and hold firm to your “Fiat” as you await God’s promised fulfillment of eternal life.

Congratulations, Brother!