

**Homily Outline for the Chrism Mass  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
March 30, 2021**

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- I. I often like to start my homilies by saying “it is good to be here,” recalling the words of the Apostles who were with Jesus at His Transfiguration.
  - A. Last year, at the start of the COVID pandemic, we had no congregation in attendance for our Holy Week Services.
  - B. So this year it is VERY GOOD to be here together, especially with the priests of our diocese to celebrate this Chrism Mass.
  
- II. One of the literary styles I like to use in my writing is alliteration, which is the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.
  - A. In my first book, *Holy Goals for Body and Soul: Eight Steps to Connect Sports with God and Faith*, the eight steps all start with the letter “F”: fear, failure, frustration, faith, fortitude, family, friendship, and fun.
  - B. In my second book, *Running for a Higher Purpose: Eight Steps to Spiritual and Physical Fitness*, the eight steps start with the letter “R”: review, reform, resolve, repeat, renew, relax, reward, and rejoice.
  
- III. Since the Chrism Mass starts with the letters “ch”, I will describe three characteristics of the Christian life that all start with “ch”, with thanks for the suggestion from Father Michael Giesler of the Wespine Center in Kirkwood, Missouri, who wrote a novel whose characters lived at the very beginning of Christianity. Father Giesler describes three characteristics of the early Christians: cheerfulness, chastity, and charity.
  - A. Cheerfulness - we are anointed with the “oil of gladness” (Psalm 45).
  - B. Chastity - distinguish “cheerfulness” and “pleasure” - the joy of a pure heart.
  - C. Charity - happiness comes from loving and serving others.
  
- IV. Of course, the words “Chrism” and “Christian” are related to “Christ,” the Anointed One. May we live in Christ with cheerfulness, chastity, and charity.
  
- V. May God give us this grace. Amen.