

## EPISODE 03 – The Role of the Parishioner

1. What prayers of the Mass remind you of the Christian's status as exiles?
  - Learning that we are exiles on a pilgrim journey, I find in the Eucharistic prayers:
    - Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your **pilgrim** Church on earth, with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.
  - And also
    - Grant also to us, when our earthly **pilgrimage** is done, that we may come to an eternal dwelling place and live with you for ever;
  - The second prayer more than the first is a reminder to me that we are exiles.
2. How can we become more aware in our daily lives of the importance of longing for heaven?
  - A glance at the news in the media at any point during the day reminds me that this world is no paradise.
  - Daily prayer and the Mass help to remind me of my heavenly goal. In those times of prayer, my focus is on heaven. These are my opportunities during the day to step out of the world for a moment and obtain a preview of the world to come. It may be only a glimpse but it is sufficient to energize me and propel me through the day.
3. Reflect on John 17:9-19. How can we be "present in this world and yet not at home in it"?
  - **John 17:9-19** {9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.}
  - We believe that God is the creator of all that is seen and unseen. What is seen by me is this bit of creation in which I must live out my life. I believe that God is infinite in all things including His creation. So what it is that I see and experience is but a glimpse, a preview, a snapshot of what God can and does create. So I must live my life here but my deepest longing is not for this world but for the fullness of God's creation. This verse from John speaks to me about the world I am exiled from and gives me the grace I need to complete my pilgrim journey.