

“Do this in memory of me”: Importance of meeting Jesus in the Eucharist

We are celebrating Corpus Christi in the “Year of Eucharistic Revival”. Last Monday, 7K participated, including some of you in the Eucharistic Procession to our Cathedral. 100K expected in Indianapolis in July for the conclusion of Euch. Pilgrimage, that will connect all parts of USA. Why Eucharistic revival is important? Why is today’s Feast important?

In June 2022, the US bishops launched a 3-year Eucharistic Revival, to “*renew us-church-by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist*”. The whole purpose of all programs and activities of these years are intended to help you to ‘meet Jesus personally in the Eucharist and grow in a strong relationship with him’.

Once St. Mother Teresa invited her sisters to ask themselves, “have I really met Jesus one to one? When was the last time I heard him speak in the silence of my heart?” B&S, Euch-revival is so important because people desperately need to meet with Jesus. But many, including Catholics, do not know where to encounter him or how to meet with him. (That’s why the worrying statistics speak of large % of Christians /Catholics not believing in the *Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist*)

At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave to his disciples, saying, “this is My Body, take and eat”. Similarly, taking the cup, he said, “this is cup of My blood, take and drink. Do this in memory of me”. As we gather here to celebrate this “memorial”, as Pope Francis would say: “a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be *present* at that supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood”. Because it is in the Eucharist that we have the enduring presence of Jesus’ *living sacrifice*. This miracle of God’s physical presence to us at every Mass is the truest testament to Christ’s love for us and His desire for each of us to have a personal relationship with Him.

Why do we catechize and do faith formation? Why do we serve the poor and shelter the homeless? Why do we desire Catholic education? It is all to 'bring people to the Eucharist', because it is the 'heart of our faith'. It is the 'source and summit' of the Christian life. The Eucharist is where we encounter Christ in this life.

B&S, Jesus is longing to come to you, to come close to you, to be one with you, because you are 'God's beloved'. Euch. is the first and foremost sign that God loves you; it is called the 'Sacrament of love'. Eucharist is where we encounter Christ in this life; it is where we receive him and become one with him. In other words, Eucharist is like a marriage: When I receive Jesus, I become one flesh with him. "All sacraments as well as every ministry of the church and all apostolic works, are tied together with the Eucharist and directed toward it". (PO. 5).

When we gather for worship and come to holy Communion, we all receive one Jesus and we become one body. Just as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, so do we become 'the body of Christ'. This is God's plan for the salvation and the healing of the world: we become his body, and we continue the work of redemption. Nourished by his Body, we are called to preach, to teach and to heal in his name, and show his love because we are his body.

In today's first reading: people answered with one voice to Moses brought Lord's ordinance to them, "*we will do everything that the Lord has told us*". B&S, when we say 'Amen' before receiving the Eucharist, we all must say in our heart: "I will be everything the Lord has made *me to be*".

Thank you, Lord, for giving me a share in your Body and Blood; for making me your body in this world today. "*O Sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment thine!*" Happy Feast of Corpus Christi!