

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 29, 2018

The Eucharist Was Christ's Idea - a Covenant Between Him and His Father.

It was his idea. It is hard to grasp that in His Yes to His Father, Jesus said yes to His Own Passion and Death and Resurrection--but also said yes to The Eucharistic Sacrifice. Critics of the Catholic Church argue that the central role of the Eucharist in Church life was a later invention made centuries later. They say that as Church bureaucracy grew through the centuries, it invented devotion to the Eucharist as a way to give more power to the Priests. Our understanding of the meaning of the Eucharist has increased as the centuries have passed. Practices like adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and solemn benediction were developed only as the centuries moved along. But it is not true that the fact of the Eucharist itself was a "later invention." The Jews understood Passover as a Sacrifice, therefore the Eucharist is a Sacrifice too. It was Christ's own idea. This will become clearer and clearer as we make our way through Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel - you may want to read through the whole chapter at home today, looking for clues that the Eucharist was the Lord's idea; you'll find plenty.

Before he starts talking about the Eucharist, we can see him preparing for it. Notice, for example, how closely this multiplication of the loaves resembles the Mass, which is the perpetual celebration of the Eucharist. 1st St. John tells us that "the Jewish feast of the Passover was near," and we know at Passover Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. St. John explains that a large crowd was gathering around Jesus, because they had seen his signs of healing. Baptized Catholics can receive the Holy Eucharist because they have been previously freed from original sin by the sacrament of baptism, a sign of spiritual healing and confessed their sins. And what did Jesus do? He "gave thanks" and then "distributed" the food. This mirrors perfectly the second half of Mass. In the Eucharistic prayer the priest gives thanks to God on behalf of the congregation, and then he distributes Holy Communion. And to top it all off, St John specifies that there were basketfuls of bread and fish leftover, and Jesus instructed his apostles to gather them together and preserve them. That's exactly what we do with the hosts that remain after Communion; we gather them in the ciboria and reserve them in the tabernacle. All of this is no accident. Jesus is not just giving the crowds a free lunch to show them God's generosity and concern; he is also getting them ready to understand his coming discourse about the Eucharist.

The second critical thing that today's Gospel tells us about the Eucharist is that we really need it. The crowds following Jesus had no food. And the disciples had no money to buy food. The five loaves and two fish were simply not enough to do the job. The apostles were at the end of their rope; they were helpless; they could do nothing to satisfy the needs of the people. Some skeptics argue that the people had plenty of food, but they didn't want to share it. And so, the critics say, the real miracle is that somehow Jesus, by sharing what he had, convinced them all to do the same thing. But to reading this passage, and the parallel passages in the other Gospels, in that way is to do violence to the Bible - it's distorting the words of the text, not interpreting them. The fact that Jesus really did multiply the bread is emphasized by today's First Reading, where the prophet Elisha performed a similar miracle for a hundred people.

Only the power of God was sufficient to meet the needs described by these passages of the Bible. It reminds us of another Old Testament passage where God's power had to intervene: when he sent the Israelites manna in the desert. That too was a foreshadowing of the Eucharist, the true bread from heaven, as next week's Gospel passage will remind us. If Jesus hadn't intervened with his miracle, those people would have gone hungry; they needed bread, and only Jesus could give it to them. The same thing goes for us today. To live the lives of wisdom, courage, hope, faith, and self-giving that we are called to live, in a sin-infected culture that is like a desert, void of all those virtues, we need God's help. And he gives it to us, by feeding us with his very own wisdom, faith, courage and strength, through the Eucharist here this very Sunday.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



True Devotion (Consecration) to Mary at Nativity!

*"This devotion was a turning point
in my life. - Pope St. John Paul 2nd.*

We will continue our journey to entrust ourselves to Mary by the Solemnity of the Assumption or the days following. Those already consecrated to Mary can always repeat the exercise and consecration, many do it yearly or twice per year. We will meet on Sunday, July 29th. immediately after the 10:00 am mass.

Mass Intentions for the Week

July 28 – August 4, 2018

Sat. 7/28	8:00am	The Church worldwide.
	5:30pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 7/29	8:00am	+Charles Ferry
	10:00am	+Flora Davis
	1:00 pm	The Juarez Family
Mon. 7/30	Noon	Clare Hughes & Family
Tue. 7/31	Noon	Debbie Campbell
Wed. 8/1	Noon	David Goldstein & Family
Thu. 8/2	Noon	Fr. Agustin Mateo
Fri. 8/3	Noon	Sacred Heart League
Sat. 8/4	8:00 am	Nativity Adoration Society
	5:30pm	"Fallen Away" Catholics

Additional Masses: Off-campus Masses were offered for the intentions of: Jesse Angulo & Family; Diana Paredes & Family; Priest Alumni of Mt. Saint Mary's Seminary; Foo Family Members; Adrian Tan and Family; Thanksgiving to God (Tan Family); **Healing:** for Foo Meng Fong (2), Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Tan (2), Mr. Cameron Tan, Alicia Tan; Sydney Horge (daughter of Dominique DeRosa) 10 masses; Nativity Sick List (2); Rest in Peace: +Charles Ferry; +Cher Perera & Rohan Perera, Leo Loza.

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Kennedy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, * Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Margaret Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Alberta Williams, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta

Deacon Ebuka will preach and serve the Mass NEXT Weekend, Sunday, August 5th at the 8am Mass.



Attention

It would greatly be appreciated if those wearing lipstick at any mass would remove or blot it before receiving Communion, if you are receiving from the chalice. ALL our chalices are already damaged and linen purificators had to be thrown away. Thank you.

The Dignity of Life

July 25, 2018, marks the 50th Anniversary of Pope St. Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (Human Life). This encyclical clearly taught what has always been the Catholic Church's teaching regarding the dignity of all human life, married love, responsible parenthood and the "transmission" of human life naturally and by God's grace. This has always been controversial in modern society and in our Church as people focus on pleasure and not responsibility. Paul VI made four "prophecies" 50 years ago about would happen if the Church's teaching was ignored. All 4 have come true today.

1. Infidelity and moral decline: Paul IV predicted that the widespread use of contraception would lead to "conjugal infidelity general lowering of morality". There has been a widespread decline in morality, especially sexual morality. There is an increase in the number of divorces, abortions, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases, promiscuity and homosexuality.
2. "Loss of Respect for Women: Paul IV argued that "the man" will lose respect for "the woman" and "no longer (care) for her physical and psychological equilibrium" and will come to "the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion".
3. "Abuse of Power: Paul IV saw that the widespread acceptance of contraception would place a 'dangerous weapon . . . in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies.' The history of the family-planning programs in the 3rd World is a reality. Many people are strongly encouraged to undergo sterilization and the forced abortion program in China shows the stark extreme toward which governments are taking population programming.
4. "Unlimited Dominion: Paul IV's finally warned that contraception would lead 'man' to think that he has unlimited dominion over his own body. Sterilization is now the most widely used form of contraception in the US. We also have common in-vitro fertilization, test tube babies and cloning, and states with legal Euthanasia.

We need to continue our efforts and prayers to protect the sanctity of life.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

7/22/18

Attendance: 412 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$4,778

Spanish Mass: \$342

Utility fund: \$103