

In this world I cannot see the most high Son of God with my own eyes, except for his most holy Body and Blood.

St. Francis of Assisi

Volume 14

Through the Eyes of Faith

“When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.” – St. Teresa of Calcutta

“Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you - for you alone? He burns with desire to come into your heart.”
– St Therese of Lisieux

“If we really loved the good God, we would make it our joy and happiness to come and spend a few moments to adore Him, and ask Him for the grace of forgiveness; and we would regard those moments as the happiest of our lives.” – St. John Vianney.

“God is as really present in the consecrated Host as He is in the glory of heaven.” – St Paschal Baylon.

“The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host.”
– Archbishop Fulton Sheen

“Lord God, if I truly appreciated the majestic humility of the Eucharist...it would change my life forever.” – Mother Angelica



For information on Adoration, please contact Fr. Mirek: (845) 331-0846 or visit our webpage at:

<https://www.immaculateconceptionkingston.com/adoration-chapel-1>

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Peace and Joy to all.

July was the month of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. . We saw Eucharistic processions from the 4 corners of our country. Jesus was literally moving all over the country. The question that needs to be confronted is more than the lack of faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist although that may be an important reason for the other crises the Church is facing.

What else needs to be revived? Or is there a deeper reason for this crisis? The Gospels have clues, Sacred Scripture is THE holistic cure but where is this “hidden” in the Scriptures? To paraphrase a popular film character, “How about EVERYWHERE!” The first reason for the need of this Revival is for all Catholics to better understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. What could be a more central teaching of the Catholic Church? How many times have we read in chapter 6 of John’s Gospel, the Bread of Life discourse and wondered “Why is there even a question? How can anyone doubt the teaching that was so clearly stated by Jesus Himself?” This crisis runs far deeper than we want to admit. The

Word is walking with us on the road to Emmaus leading us to the Eucharist whether we recognize Jesus’ Presence or not, just like the disciples in Luke 24:13-35 .

Our faith needs Revival through Eucharistic Adoration, by our frequent receptions of the Sacraments especially Penance and Holy Communion, and better catechesis, to understand the spiritual consequences of unworthy reception of the Eucharist.

This is the first of a discussion about each of these pillars of the Deposit of Faith and the lack of proper catechesis and understanding in all these areas.

This little article will explore the Gospel of Mark since we are in the “B Cycle” of mass readings.

The first Gospel reading to discuss is Mark 4:35-41, the “Calming of the Storm”. The Apostles and Jesus are on the Sea of Galilee crossing it to get some rest. Suddenly a violent storm threatens to sink the boat and Jesus is asleep, on a cushion no less. Firstly, the Apostles and Jesus on a boat is commonly a metaphor for the Church (this is where the term “Barque of Peter” emanated)

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The Apostles are reluctant to awaken Jesus but their fear overcomes them. They wake him up, he commands the storm to be silent and all is calm. Except Jesus that is. He rebukes the Apostles “Do you not yet have faith?” He asks. This is quite a strong rebuke given in John 3:18: “Whoever believes in Him [Jesus] will not be condemned, but **whoever does not believe has already been condemned**”.

We do not need a metaphor to consider Jesus in these stories *as the Eucharist*. Jesus is “the true bread come down from heaven” and “true drink” according to John 6:32 and verse 55. During this year of the Eucharistic Revival, we have been focused on the Real Presence of Jesus Now let us consider Jesus *as the Eucharist*. From this perspective, the faith that Jesus rebukes is faith in the Real Presence. The storm is the crisis of the modern-day Church which brought about this call for a revival. It is our generation that has lost faith in the Real Presence of Jesus. We need to increase our faith and spread faith in the Eucharist in order to calm the storm we find our Church in today. The fear of the Lord, the AWE of the Lord’s Real Presence is “the beginning of wisdom”. Fear of earthly dangers emboldens the evil one, while fear of the Lord or AWE of the Eucharist shields us from spiritual attacks from the evil one. Faith in the Real Presence will bring Jesus’s peace to the Church just as Jesus calmed the storm in the Gospel.

The next passage to meditate upon is Mk 6:35-44, the “multiplication of loaves and fish”. From the early church this miracle was recognized as a symbolic precursor to the Eucharist. In fact, the preaching of the Word and the physical nourishment of disciples follows the same structure as in the liturgy. Vatican II teaches “The Church, especially in the sacred liturgy, unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table of both God’s Word and of Christ’s body.” Faith in both the spiritual and the physical. The leftovers symbolize that when God feeds us we will be more than satisfied.

In Mk 5:21-34, Jesus encounters two people in need; the daughter of Jairus and the woman who was hemorrhaging for 12 years. Jairus pleads (prays) that Jesus will heal his daughter. Jesus walks to Jairus house and the “crowd was pressing him”. Many people could have touched the Lord but only one was healed; the woman who was hemorrhaging for 12 years. Jesus tells her she was healed by her great faith. This distraction caused enough time to pass that Jairus is told his daughter died and to stop “wasting” Jesus’ time. Jesus encourages Jairus however to not give up (in other words, keep praying) and Jairus is rewarded with the awakening or resurrection (Aramaic translation) of his daughter. Jairus could have felt his prayer was unanswered because of the distraction of the healing of the woman but his perseverance in prayer allowed Jesus healing power to save her. St Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, the Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle tells us that Jesus’ healing power is sent out from the tabernacle as He is alive and active there. We need to allow our faith to know Jesus, the healer, the divine physician is present in the tabernacle. He doesn’t need to revive his love for us.

This article is made of excerpts from the July, 2024 Holy Hour we celebrated at St Catherine LaBoure parish in Lake Karine, NY. I invite you to join us at the Holy Hours on the First Friday of each month at either St Catherine LaBoure parish in Lake Katrine or Immaculate Conception parish in Kingston.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking their faith to the next level and follow the gospel in way of St Francis of Assisi, contact me about visting our fraternity that meets in Woodstock at St John’s parish on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are what was known as the 3rd Order of St Francis of Assisi or now known as the Secular Franciscan Order.