

Pastor's Letter

June 2, 2024—The Most Holy Body & Blood

Dear Church Family.

Today the church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We remember that, as St. Mark records in our Gospel reading, “While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.’”

This gift of Jesus’ own body and blood as food is the very life of the church. Without the spiritual nourishment we receive in the Eucharist, there is no church. Many Catholics have forgotten this, if they ever learned it. Mass attendance continues to go down and the number of people claiming to have no religion goes up. There are a variety of reasons for this, including disgust with leaders in the church who cause scandal and the failure of some in the church to live up to Christ’s call to love. Some have just drifted away because of uninspiring preaching or bad liturgy.

This is understandable, and we need to do all we can to fix these problems, but it doesn’t change the fact that if we are not receiving the grace of the Eucharist we are spiritually dying of starvation. If our bodies aren’t receiving the food they need, they let us know it. That growling stomach is hard to ignore. There are also signs of spiritual malnutrition as well, although they might be more subtle. We might become less loving and more judgmental or hateful toward others. We might become less inclined to pray or give in more easily to temptation. We fall away from God and the joy of life in Christ is extinguished.

Now is the time to fight this spiritual famine. To help deepen understanding of the importance of the Eucharist and renew a spiritual hunger for it, our diocese has been participating in a national Eucharistic revival. Last October we celebrated a diocesan eucharistic congress and this summer we will be participating in a national eucharistic pilgrimage that is making its way to Indianapolis for a national eucharistic congress. This pilgrimage will be passing through Quincy on Tuesday, July 9th. You can find out how you can take part at the diocesan website, www.dio.org/procession. This is the perfect opportunity to deepen our devotion to the source and summit of our faith. Jesus Christ is the bread of heaven. He wants everyone to come to his table and join the feast.

Blessings,
Fr. Scott

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