

Homily
Friday of the Third Week of Easter
April 28, 2023

Sadly, less than a third of those who claim to be Catholic believe in the True Presence. I'm willing to bet that you here are in the minority; you here truly believe and still marvel at the goodness of our Lord and Savior in the Eucharist.

All of us are on a faith journey. Each of us is in a different place on that path. Each of us has a different understanding of God, Jesus, the True Presence and our role in Salvation History. Today's Gospel reminds us of that most important tenet of our faith; Jesus is the source of life. Our understanding of the True Presence depends on where we are on our faith journey, on our path toward Him, He, Who is the answer to everything, He, Whom we will never fully comprehend in this earthly life of human limitations.

Just as confirmation was not a final destination, but an initiation, just as our marriage was a beginning, not a conclusion, just as Mass is a sending forth, not a solitary event, we continue to grow in our understanding of the Eucharist, never fully comprehending, yet learning more and more everyday.

May we be humble as the centurion who said, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to enter under my roof..." May we remember that we receive Jesus not because we are worthy, but He makes us worthy in our reception of Him. May we still find excitement and joy in discovering just how much Jesus loves us.

When we receive Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity, what does that mean to you? When Jesus tells us, "unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you," what is your understanding of His words? Jesus said, "For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink." How are we to grasp this? We will never fully understand the magnitude of our Lord, the greatness of His generosity, His infinite humility. We can only get a glimpse of this due to, like my wife say of me, my wee little mind."

But we are called to be perfect. That means we continue to strive for understanding. God's greatest commandment, "You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your strength, with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself," requires us to take action. We receive strength in the Eucharist to go on mission; we receive encouragement in the Eucharist to face our struggles; we receive Christ Himself in the Eucharist and become one with Him. And, we become one with each other through our oneness with Him. We are one family in the Body of Christ.

It's easy to say all this. But it's another thing altogether to say that we fully understand it. So we continue to come to Mass, we continue to receive our Lord and Savior in the Eucharist and we continue to struggle in our understanding of His love for us. And we take all this and be Christ for the world. It's easy to say, but so hard to do. That's why we continue to come here for nourishment of His Body, His very Flesh and Blood.