

Homily
Friday of the Third Week of Easter
April 19, 2024

A priest, a minister and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So they each go into the woods, find a bear, and attempt to convert it. Later they get together.

The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the Catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his First Communion."

"I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him in that stream."

They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on the ground, bloodied and broken.

The rabbi quietly whispers, "Looking back, maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

Yes, converting a wild animal was wrong, but that wasn't their greatest mistake; they were competing against each other to see who was best at his job. Humility, or lack thereof, was their greatest mistake. It takes humility to trust.

Do we truly trust Jesus when He said, "Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life?" The Jews quarreled among themselves. "How can [he do this]," they said. They did not trust.

We can sit here and easily Monday-Morning-Quarterback this thing and say, "of course we believe." But do we? Do we truly believe and trust what Jesus said?

I have great trust that if I walk into the woods and try to convert a wild animal that it won't go well for me. But do I trust that I have eternal life if I eat His Flesh and drink His Blood? Where's the proof?

Over and over again, Jesus worked signs and wonders in the presence of His disciples. Today, we can read and listen to the accounts of Jesus. Do we trust? Do we believe?

Sadly, only about 30% of Catholics believe in the Real Presence. In a few moments, we will be witness to the greatest miracle on earth; Jesus becoming truly present on this altar. In a few moments, we will come forward and receive His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. We will become one with Him and one with each other. This is our faith; this is what we believe, if only we have the humility to set aside the fears, obstacles and reservations about God's promise of eternal life.

To truly trust in God's Word, we must be humble; we must look outside ourselves and beyond anything else of this world that gets in the way of our path to the One Truth, Jesus Christ, the, "bread that came down from heaven."