

SACRAMENTS - SESSION FIFTEEN - EUCHARIST AS PRESENCE

Our Youth will appreciate the Eucharist as Sacrament As Presence and understand how we receive Jesus in order to continue the presence of Jesus for the world of our day.

Parents: You will teach appreciation for Christ's presence in the Eucharist by the reverence for Christ you model for them.

- The Gospel is preached by our "walking with God" each day we live.
- Think back in your life those special people whose very presence made God important to you. This is what we mean when we say that we receive the Body and Blood of Christ to become Christ for others and occasionally we use words.
- Some of the following insights will help form an understanding of the Presence of Christ. Your walk with your God will form them into people who take God seriously.

Presence

- In everything that exists, we can distinguish two elements: 1. Substance 2. Appearances
"Substance" is what a thing is. A house, a tree, a person
"Appearances" are what it looks like. Size, shape, color, texture, etc.
- At Mass, when the priest speaks in the person of Christ "This is my Body," the Substance (What it is) of Bread becomes the Substance of the Body of Christ. (and the appearances remain the same)
- When the Priest speaks in the person of Christ "This is the cup of My Blood, the Blood of the New and Everlasting Covenant. "It will be shed for you and for all that sin may be forgiven," the Substance of the Wine becomes the Substance of the Blood of Christ. And the appearances remain the same.
- To the question: "What is it? Response: Body of Christ... Blood of Christ...
- To the question: "What are their appearances? Response: Bread and Wine.
- What is signified in the separate "consecration of the Body and Blood" is the total gift of Christ to God – life itself. What is signified takes place – The total gift of Christ to God – most perfect of all acts of worship – is represented to God.
- And it is our privilege to offer with Christ all our own showing of love for God by reaching out to others – the week long.

Reflection

The presence of Jesus to us is:

- A profound sign of Love of God for us. God went through a lot of trouble to be with us always
- God also loved us so much He made us like God – having the power of choice.
- God will never force us to obey Him.
- God invites us freely to choose Loving Him. How much time do I spend talking with God? Do I realize all God went thru to be with me? How much do I listen to what God wants in the important decisions of my life? Do I understand that I am to live forever in the presence of God? Do I realize how this destroys death's power to hurt me? Do I see how this sets me free to live life to the fullest, knowing none can take this from me? Do I realize that from before the world was made, God knew me profoundly, knew how I would use my life, knew how many people he was counting on me to reach, and in spite of all my weakness and because of all the good God saw in me, God still created me and said "This one I can trust – He or she will not let me down.

Implications for Parents

- Your charge, as parents, is to teach your children and model for them "The Christian Way⁸ of Life."
- This way of life is an attitude – a whole worldview – a philosophy of life – an attitude – which is totally different from the way of the world which so many live.
- The Philosophy of Life is:
Life is the Gift of God who has loved us from before the world was made.
God has modeled for us how this life is to be lived in the person of Christ – Show love for God in gratitude by loving all. Know that you have been made for a life which will last forever with your God – whatever the cost is here – it's worth it. Ultimately, without knowing that we have been made to live in joy with Our God for all eternity, little in this life makes sense.
And to one who does not realize that life is to last forever, nothing in our philosophy of life makes sense.]
- All that we believe and do flows from the above implications.
- We have been commissioned by God to live this "Other worldly Life" to help others realize that the God who speaks to them in the depths of their hearts is indeed a loving God. That God also is counting on parents, and the children they bring into the world, by the consistency and genuineness of their lives, to bring others to realize the our beliefs have totally changed our lives.
- It may sound complicated but the prophet Micah said many years ago:

There is one thing God asks of you – this alone. Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with Your God.