

## Chaplain's Bulletin July 28, 2024



Dear Folks,

Every three years our lectionary takes us through the Bread of Life discourse in the Gospel of John. Having just finished the Eucharistic Congress, continuing the Eucharistic revival, we are presented with five weeks of following John chapter 6.

I'm going to challenge everyone to take advantage of this time.

1. Present yourself to God to be changed by this journey. You can imagine that the disciples were changed by this day. In the Eucharistic prayer, I pray for the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine, then I pray that the Holy Spirit will transform us.
2. Reflect on the Gospel story throughout the week. All four Gospels relate the feeding of 5000 families with five loaves and two fish. Matthew and Mark also tell the story of feeding 4000 with seven loaves and a few fish. We are really familiar with this story. What would it be like for the disciples, who had no idea what was about to happen? The Gospels reveal special treasures when we look at them more closely, and this is especially true of the Gospel of John. I suggest that each sentence is important and has a purpose. What might it be?
3. Try to do some extra learning. If you have not yet read Brant Pitre's book *"Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist,"* Bishop Robert Barron's *"This is my Body,"* Scott Hahn's *"The Fourth Cup"* or *"The Lamb's Supper,"* or any of Timothy O'Malley's books, this might be an opportunity. On Formed.org there is great stuff.
4. The talks from the Eucharistic congress are available on YouTube. There is so much that can be done so easily. Those of us who weren't able to make it in person can participate to that extent. What if you and a group of friends watch a talk and then discuss it afterward?
5. We remember that the Eucharist is about gift of self. The Lord gives Himself to us completely in this intimate encounter, and we are learning to give ourselves. What if we asked the question, "If Jesus could get whatever He wanted of me today, what might it be?" What if we let that question percolate in our minds for a while?
6. What if we spent some extra time in front of the tabernacle or the monstrance. We remember that the Eucharist is not a thing but a person, the person of Jesus. As we focus on His presence, He is ever aware of our presence. He is watching you. Now. Yes, now.
7. After we receive communion, let us go forth from Mass remembering that Jesus is within us. How does that awareness change how we act?

I challenge you to do something different. Something. Anything. How can we open a new door in our minds and hearts to let Jesus in more deeply?

Blessings,  
Fr. Jim