

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

As we continue reading through the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6, we hear Jesus making a strong claim that

unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (John 6:53-56)

These strong words (which are even stronger and more graphic in the original Greek) tell us that Jesus is not messing around; He is not speaking in metaphor, analogy or hyperbole. He is clearly stating that we are to eat Him. While this may not sound appetizing, Jesus is not talking about cannibalism here, but receiving His true Flesh and Blood in the Eucharist – His glorified Flesh and Blood. What we can take away from this is that the Eucharist is not merely a symbol or ritual act of the community, but it truly is Jesus, present in our midst.

This should amaze us. It is easy to fall in to the trap of thinking that our Faith is a matter of nice platitudes, a generally accepted moral standard by which to live, or an outline for our own personal walk through this life. We can forget that our Faith is about Truth – not your truth or my truth, but THE TRUTH. This will lead us to forget that when Jesus says He is truly there in the Eucharist, that it is Jesus, the God of the universe, truly present, not in shadow or thought, but in reality.

This is one reason why St. John Paul II said that we need to cultivate Eucharistic amazement – we need to reawaken **awe** at the presence of God in our midst. The fact that the Almighty God would humble Himself to come to us under the form of bread, that He would allow Himself to be consumed, is so incredible, awesome, so [insert superlative adjective here], and we too often take it for granted.

So, how do we recapture and rekindle Eucharistic amazement? One way is to spend more time with Him, gazing upon Him in the Eucharist. As our eyes learn to pierce the appearance of bread, our hearts will expand to grow in intimacy with our Lord. I encourage you to come and spend time with our Lord in Adoration. We have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday from 8:30-9:30am and 2:00-8:00pm, and the Eucharistic Chapel is open 24/7. Adoration (spending time loving the Lord in the Eucharist) changes us, conquers our pride, breaks sinful habits, enhances our virtues, strengthens our resolve, and expands our love.

May you come to a greater amazement of our Lord's great love poured out for us in the Eucharist, and through that amazement, come deep into the Heart of Christ.