

3 Easter Friday 2020  
JN 6:51-58

Two banquets were held in Galilee in the course of a year:

- ✓ One, at the wedding feast in Cana, where Our Blessed Lord was a guest;
- ✓ the other, in the open air, where Our Blessed Lord was the host;
  
- ✓ At one, there was wine to overflowing
- ✓ At the other, there was enough bread to feed 5000 men
  
- ✓ At one, His disciples came to believe in Him
- ✓ At the other, many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him.
  
- ✓ At one, directions were given without explanation: "Fill the jars with water. Draw some out and take it the headwaiter."
- ✓ At the other, directions were given, "Have the people recline. Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted," but with these directions came considerable explanation.

Now explanation is quite common in the Gospel of John:

- Last Sunday's gospel was part of the discourse between Our Blessed Lord and Nicodemus. When Jesus spoke to Master Nicodemus about being "born again," Nicodemus asked, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus, then, explained Baptism.

- When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan Woman about living water, the woman asked, “Where is this water so I won’t have to keep coming back to this well?” Jesus, then, explained living water.
- In this evening's (morning's) gospel, when the Jews quarreled about eating his flesh, Our Blessed Lord masterfully explained His real presence in the Eucharist.
  - ✓ Twelve times Jesus said he was the bread that came down from heaven.
  - ✓ Four times he said we must “eat his flesh and drink his blood.”
  - ✓ Jesus said, “My flesh IS real food, my blood IS real drink. At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "This IS my body. This IS my blood.” And the verb in the language that Jesus spoke, namely Aramaic, means “Is,” it does not mean represents, nor signifies, nor symbolizes. When Jesus said, "This IS my body. This IS my blood," that is literally what He meant.

While I am clarifying Jesus' language, I would also like speak for a moment on the phrase, "Do this in memory of me." "Do this in memory of me" is a very poor English translation of what Jesus said in Aramaic. To translate it more accurately because awkward in English, but I'll do the best I can. When Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me," Our Blessed Lord not

only set up a memorial for his death on the cross, that is – when you repeat this, when you replicate what I am doing, you will be remembering my death. You will also (and here is the literal translation) "make me come alive again." So you will not only be remembering me, but you will also be making me alive again." Right there on the altar, at the consecration, Jesus is made alive again. And we hear that right in the Eucharistic prayer right after the consecration;

“ . . . we offer you this holy and living sacrifice”

What was put into place by Our Blessed Lord, namely the Eucharist, Christ alive and present before us right here in the Church, for those receiving Holy Communion, Christ alive in your hand, Christ alive in your heart – first of all, it's miraculous, it is omnipotent, it is all powerful, it is awesome. God in the Church! God in your hand! God in your heart! It's the closest we'll get, the closest I'll get to Christ on this side of life. It doesn't get any better than that.

Last Friday, in my homily, I read something from my Breviary that I had read before the Mass in Adoration. And I stated then, and I'll state it again and I am very well aware how privileged I am to be able to adore.

Divine Mercy Sunday, I was going for a powerwalk, and as I came out the front door of the Rectory, there was a parishioner across the drive. And she spoke about how much she missed Mass. And I spoke about how much I miss having a congregation. She said, “Father, when we are able to come back and receive Holy Communion, there won’t be a dry eye in the line.”

The Eucharist: it's miraculous, it is omnipotent, it is all powerful, it is awesome. God in the Church! God in your hand! God in your heart! It's the closest we'll get, the closest I'll get to Christ on this side of life. It doesn't get any better than that.