

## From the Pastor—July 19, 2020

**Spiritually Starving—No. 5** The sacrament of the Eucharist is called:

*1330 The memorial of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection.*

*The Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior and includes the Church's offering. The terms holy sacrifice of the Mass, "sacrifice of praise," spiritual sacrifice, pure and holy sacrifice are also used, since it completes and surpasses all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.*

*The Holy and Divine Liturgy, because the Church's whole liturgy finds its center and most intense expression in the celebration of this sacrament; in the same sense we also call its celebration the Sacred Mysteries. We speak of the Most Blessed Sacrament because it is the Sacrament of sacraments. The Eucharistic species reserved in the tabernacle are designated by this same name.*

*1331 Holy Communion, because by this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood to form a single body. We also call it: the holy things (ta hagia; sancta) - the first meaning of the phrase "communion of saints" in the Apostles' Creed - the bread of angels, bread from heaven, medicine of immortality, viaticum.*

*1332 Holy Mass (Missa), because the liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (missio) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives.*

Do you notice the theme of sacrifice that comes from these ways to refer to the Eucharist? Do you notice the prayers at Mass that point out this sacrificial nature?

Here is an example of a prayer of the Mass which emphasizes the sacrificial nature of the Eucharist:

"Prayer Over the Offerings, July 19, 2020: 'O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honor of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.' "

Truly, our presence at Mass shows that we are making a sacrifice of our lives to the Lord. Understanding this makes all the difference for our approach to Mass.

I hope to continue these Catechism paragraphs and commentary into the future. My commentary is in regular print, while the precise text of the Catechism is italicized.

**Covid Updates** I continue to be grateful for our public Masses held since the first Sunday of June. We must all be vigilant when we come to Mass to observe the guidelines set forth by the local health department and in union with the diocesan guidelines which have been established. If you come to Mass, but going to Holy Communion seems like it is too close quarters, you can certainly refrain from receiving the Eucharist. Or, you come at the end of the line from wherever you are seated. I understand if walking up to Communion places you in too close a proximity to other people. I respect your own prayerful, careful judgment. \*\*\* It has been difficult for many, I am sure, to omit the Sign of Peace, to omit the taking up of the collection, to omit the joy of singing and music, to omit social time after Mass. We share these

hardships and other elements of the Mass while hoping that we can soon—someday make our Mass experience more of what we hope it can be, to be like it was prior to the pandemic. \*\*\* I added Communion calls to the sick to my schedule this week. A Catholic from out of town lives with her daughter in town, and the daughter asked if I could come over. Her mother I son hospice care; she is alert and appreciated receiving the Eucharist and being anointed. I need to get to homes of some of you to refresh you with the sacraments. Even if I were not to enter your house, but prayed with you at the front door, I think we could observe Covid restrictions and give you the sacraments. The thing is is that if any of you may be hospitalized or decide to live in a local skilled nursing home or assisted living, I may have difficulty entering these facilities to anoint you. Please think ahead and give me a call so I can visit you at home.

**Mom and Dad's Anniversary** My parents will celebrate their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 24. Yay for marriage and the marital love my Mom and Dad have always shown for each other and for us kids!

**Flowers at Altar** The beautiful sunflowers and other summer flowers have been captivately enhancing our Masses at St. Mary's. Thank you to our flower people! I noticed this week that the flowers were, as it were, bowing forward, as if bowing in homage to the Eucharist upon the altar. Isn't that cool??!!

**Natural Family Planning, Fertility** I wish to promote July 19-25 as Natural Family Planning Awareness month. I also wish to reach out to those who may experience fertility loss within their marriages. A great resource of medical specialists is the St. Paul VI Institute in Omaha. I have heard of many primary care physicians who were not trained to treat your fertility by making it healthier rather than diminishing it or excluding it altogether. In addition, certain fertility treatments are immoral because they make extra fertilized eggs which are never used; these treatments do not respect the dignity of the marital act. Please check out these web sites for more information on NFP and the St. Paul VI Institute of Omaha: <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/nfp/nfp-resources-and-support>; <https://popepaulvi.com/>.

**New Units at St. Joseph** The repair company has said that our heating and cooling units' age makes it very difficult to find the parts needed. St. Joseph's has entered into an agreement with Jerry's Sheet Metal of Grand Island for the purchase and installation of new heating and cooling units. The new units will be installed the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Pending approval of our trustees and the Diocese, we will pay for job at \$22,450 by using money gifted to the parish in May, 2019, which was designated for capital expenditures. We are thankful for this gift. If this plan needs more clarification, I can explain it to you in person or over the phone.

**Father Don** Remember, the funeral Mass for Father Don Larmore will be Tuesday, July 28, at Blessed Sacrament in Grand Island. The burial will be in Giltner. Keep your eyes posted on the Grand Island Diocese's Facebook page for more details to be released.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**