

## From the Pastor—September 6, 2020

**Spiritually Starving—No. 12** Here are paragraphs 1343 and 1344 from the Catechism:

*It was above all on "the first day of the week," Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection, that the Christians met "to break bread." From that time on down to our own day the celebration of the Eucharist has been continued so that today we encounter it everywhere in the Church with the same fundamental structure. It remains the center of the Church's life.*

*Thus from celebration to celebration, as they proclaim the Paschal mystery of Jesus "until he comes," the pilgrim People of God advances, "following the narrow way of the cross," toward the heavenly banquet, when all the elect will be seated at the table of the kingdom.*

If you are like me, raised as a Catholic, going to Sunday Mass was more of a habit than an intentional desire to unite myself to Christ. Reading through this section of the Catechism helps us to realize the powerful encounter that each Mass gives us. We come to break bread as Christians have always done.

I attended a Mass in the Czech Republic in 2008. I didn't concelebrate it as a priest; I just attended it. It was amazing to realize that though I couldn't understand the native language, I recognized the Mass. The Holy, Holy, the raising of the Host and Chalice, the giving of Holy Communion, these were all the same as they are in every Mass. Those of you who have traveled, even within our own State and Nation, know that different regions will have slightly different customs during the Mass. But at the root of it all, the Mass is the same.

I think it's important for us to renew ourselves always that we are celebrating the Mass until Jesus comes again. He asked us to "do" the Mass "in memory of him." Even if the Second Coming of Our Lord happens 10,000 years from now, it is certain that Jesus will come to each of us individually at the end of our earthly lives. Then, we will want to show proof to him that we have celebrated the Mass well as we waited for him to come to us. Our good works and good lives will be a result of our faithful Mass attendance and show the Lord that we are ready to live with him in heaven forever!

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.

**Fatima Movie** A new movie about Our Lady of Fatima and the three children who saw her was released Friday, August 28. I ordered it by streaming and watched it on its release date. It was so good! The three children were played by wonderful young actors. The portrayal of Lucia was very well done; the movie was told from her point of view. It was delightful to watch little Jacinta, the youngest of the seers, push down her brother, Francesco, and her cousin, Lucia, to their knees so as to pray! The main movie reviewer on Catholic media, Steven Greydanus, called this movie (and I paraphrase) the best dramatic presentation of the Fatima story (there have been

others before now). Of course, the whole message of Fatima about prayer and making reparation for the sins of the people of that time, 1917, and ours, was brought home with passion. I think so many of us could do better in our Christian lives to intentionally make reparation (that is, to repair) for sins committed by ourselves and others. The Miracle of the Sun in the Fatima movie is realistic and enhanced by modern technology of what seemed to me to be scenes filmed from a drone hovering over the people.

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**