

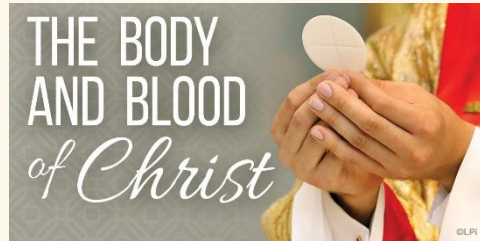


From the Desk of Father Peter

Knowing God and Our Faith

*In the French language there are two words for knowing something. One is **connaître**, the other is **savoir**. The French language makes a distinction between knowing something*

*intellectually-**connaître**, from knowing something from the **heart-savoir**. We all grasp various intellectual concepts at different levels and to varying degrees-our **book smarts**, so to speak, if you will. It is equivalent to the difference between simply repeating something we have learned, as opposed to sharing a true insight, or wisdom we have acquired from our experience—those powerful **ah-ha** moments we are blessed to have.*



St. Augustine wrote, “God is Life. There are days when the burdens we carry on our back chafe our shoulder and wear us down; when the road we walk seems dreary and endless; when the skies above seem dark and threatening; when our lives have no music and our hearts are lonely and our souls have lost their courage.” At times like this, we turn to God for solace.

This is all the more reason why I would say, on any given Sunday, there are folks who stay away from our Eucharistic worship by using a long list of what they perceive to be legitimate excuses. They have allowed their brains or their hurt feelings or whatever to convince them that they really don't need to be here with us today. It is times like this, when we need to know God from the

heart, and why He is the God of our Life.

When we come to worship, we gather around God's table as sinners trying to become saints and trying to strengthen our relationship with Him. When we come to the house of prayer, we join with others to worship God, to praise and thank Him as we ask that our needs be met. We come in hope of gaining insight and wisdom into what we must be doing to be in tune with the will of God. Like Abraham, we hope beyond hope, and believe in the promises of our God because we truly know His love is still at work and unfolding in our lives this very day.

The Body and Blood of Christ links us to our ancestors in the faith who have eaten and drunk at this table and now enjoy eternal rest with God. These are our saints. They, too, are "companions" with us on the journey, praying for us, setting an example through their lives and giving us the encouragement even though we still have a way to go before we join them. The bond of this Eucharistic meal forged with each of us today will not end, even to death. Death has not and will not swallow us up. Jesus promises us in the Gospel, "Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

May this blessing of His own word be with us forever in good times as well as in challenging situations of our lives. Peace be upon us all.



God Bless,

Fr. Peter