



*From the Pastor
30th Sunday in
Ordinary Time - A
October 29, 2023*

SENT FORTH. After a *long* side trip in which I reflected on the **2022 Apostolic Letter Pope Francis** issued on the **Sacred Liturgy, 'Desiderio Desideravi,'**

and other issues, like the many excuses people use for missing **holy Mass**, I return to the beginning. More than a year ago, in June 2022, I began my series of reflections [this is #48!] on the USA Bishops' **National Eucharistic Revival** document ***The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.***

Today I begin a two-part reflection, in which we consider the final comments, made by our episcopal shepherds, on our need to **SHARE** our **FAITH IN** and **PRACTICE OF** **God's Great Gift of Eucharist**. For past articles on this **Revival**, the whole document, and a free study guide, go to our parish website - **easeton.net** - and click on **National Eucharistic Revival Bulletin Articles**.

SENT FORTH. These words of **Jesus**: "**Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.**" [Matthew 10:8b] should ring in our ears each time we receive the **Most Holy Eucharist** or celebrate ANY **Sacrament**. For these **God-given Gifts** are given so that we may share them with others, and through them, help build up **God's Kingdom** on earth. No wonder **Pope Benedict**, before he officially promulgated the **2011 Third Revision of the Roman Missal**, which gave us the **Mass orations** we now use, **personally** added a **Dismissal** option to the **Concluding Rites**: "**Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**"

Imagine what your life, your family and friends, our **Parish, Diocesan** and **Civic Communities**, our **Country**, the **Church**- indeed, the **Whole World**- would be like if we lived by that mantra: "**Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**" **Pope Francis** continues to echo this challenge by also calling each one of us to do our part in the **New Evangelization** by sharing our **Faith** with those who have become lukewarm, have fallen away, or who never knew what great **Gifts** we have in our **Church** and her **Sacraments**. If we keep these **Gifts** to ourselves, we will know the shame of the man who was castigated for burying, and not sharing, his treasure. [Cf. Matthew 25:14-30]

SOURCE AND SUMMIT. More than a year ago, my 09/19/2022 bulletin article had a quote from the **Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: Lumen Gentium** [Light of the World] on the unique importance of the **Most Blessed Sacrament** above all other **Sacraments**. It described the **Eucharist** as the "**FOUNT and APEX**" or, in some translations, the "**SOURCE and SUMMIT**" of our faith journey. An analogy from the 1960's explained how the **Eucharist** is our 'source' by likening it to the old neighborhood gas station. Back then, the local gas station was more than a filling station; you went there for directions, to use a restroom, to have your car tuned up or worked on, and to 'shoot the breeze.' The owner was like family [for me, it was 'Larry's' in Irvington]; we were loyal to each other and supported one another. Would that every **Parish** family be the same!

That analogy 'limps' since, unlike the **Eucharist**, the gas station is **NOT** the summit or goal. Nor is it like **Disney's EPCOT: Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow**, which has yet to live up to its name. The **Church** is not **Experimental**: she was formed by **God** who graces and empowers her to reach her goal ... which she will only do in heaven. Nor is she a **Prototype**: she is a **living reality** whose growth will continue until the end of time. While she should be a true **Community**, a goal that she will not attain until we are in heaven, she bestows and builds up her blessings every day, not just **Tomorrow**.

So, we come to **holy Mass** to: strengthen our unity; have **God's Word** proclaimed and explained; state who we are and what we have been called to do; express our needs and concerns; be sated with the ultimate spiritual food: the **Body and Blood of Christ**; to be fortified by a blessing; and to be sent forth to sow the seeds that were sown in us. What a far cry from those who still believe they are simply there to 'fulfill the obligation' to 'hear' **Mass**!

Regardless of which of the prescribed **Dismissals** is offered by the **Deacon, Priest** or **Bishop**, perhaps the best way to leave holy Mass is to ask ourselves: "**What will I say and do, or not say or do, to glorify the Lord by MY life?**"

In His holy Name,

Very Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, VF, KCHS