



*From the Pastor
3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time - A
November 5, 2023*

SENT FORTH. We are finally at the end of my reflections on the **2022 Apostolic Letter Pope Francis** issued on the **Sacred Liturgy**, '**Desiderio Desideravi.**'

I began this series in June 2022 [*this is #49!*] on the USA Bishops' **National Eucharistic Revival** document **The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.** And this is **Part 2** of my thoughts on the closing words from our **Bishops** on why the **Great Gift of Eucharist** is so important. 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.**

Last week's article was based on an option for the **Dismissal** in the **Concluding Rites**, which **Pope Benedict XVI** personally added to the **2011 Third Revision of the Roman Missal**: "**Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.**" However, before we can 'go' and get to work, we must 'know' what we have received - and 'how' we can help build up **God's Kingdom** on earth. I echo our **Bishops'** plea that everyone do all they can to better understand the **Sacred Mysteries**, more actively participate in them, and be more faithful in celebrating them ... as often as possible.

One reason the **Hallmark Channel** is so popular is that, in a world torn by strife and discord, wars and woes, we crave experiences that restore our hope, raise our spirits, move our hearts, calm our fears, and so on. Even 'the news,' which thrives on all that is sad or evil, upsetting, shocking, or disdainful, 'throws the dog a bone' by ending with a heart-warming, hope-filled good deed or life-giving report, or a live-in-action story. This positive ending should also be the goal and end-product of every **Sacramental** celebration!

The obligation or mandate to actively participate in weekly **Mass** is **NOT** only to fulfill a **Commandment**; it is required for our own good! We **NEED** a break from all that is wrong with our world; we **NEED** to recharge our batteries; and we **NEED** to record - in word and action - the **Greatest Love Story** ever told: how **God**, and His great, never-ending mercy, sent His **Son** to suffer and die to redeem us. **Jesus**, in turn, enables us

to share in all He won for us by his **Passion, Death** and **Resurrection** when we take part in the **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**. Then, as His ambassadors [*Cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20*], we are to be His personal representatives, who bring **Christ's Love**, in all we say and do, to everyone we meet.

This solemn duty is **NOT** limited to, or restricted to, **Bishops, Priests, or Deacons; Religious Sisters** or **Brothers; Catechists** or **Liturgical Ministers**; it is incumbent on **EVERY baptized Christian**. That is why **Pope Francis** exhorts each **Christian**, without exception, to be a '**Missionary Disciple**,' who takes personal responsibility for promoting the **Faith**. For the love which we have come to know **MUST** be shared with others; it is not ours to keep to ourselves! As **Pope Saint John XXIII** said of the **Church** and our **Faith**: "**We are not on earth to guard a museum, but attend a blooming garden full of life.**"

While we have countless role models in sharing the **Good News** among the **Saints**, I highlight just one: the first man called to be an **Apostle**, according to the fourth **Gospel**: "**Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed).**" [*John 1:40-41*] Unless everyone can say of us: "**We have found the Messiah**" here, at **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish**, I have failed as a **Pastor**. How can **YOU** help **ME** get a better grade in this ultimate test?

Let me end this series with a **Call-To-Action**, with as many suggestions I can conjure up to help you get more actively involved; they are in no particular order. Become a **Liturgical Minister: Altar Server, Choir Member** or **Leader of Song; Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** at **Mass** and/or to those at home or in a nursing home or hospital; **Hospitality Minister** or **Usher; Reader; Sacristan**. Become a **Catechetical Minister: a Catechist, Aide, or Office Assistant; a Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader**. Come to **holy Mass during the week**; attend **Eucharistic Adoration**; make private **Visits** to the **Blessed Sacrament**. Become the **Presence of Christ**, whom we receive in the **Most Holy Eucharist!**

In His holy Name,

Very Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, VF, KCHS