



The Messenger

February, 2019

Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



of what takes place at Mass, these are not the reason we are obligated to attend and participate in Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. The reason we are obligated to attend Mass is to give worship to God.

We come to Mass to acknowledge God as God, the creator of heaven and earth, the all-powerful and loving Father who saved us from sin and opened the gates of heaven to us. This is why we come to Mass! It is easy to think we do not need to attend or that there are other things that are more important, but nothing is more important than once a week giving the proper worship to God who created us by coming to Mass. When we come to Mass, like the wise men who came to worship the infant Jesus, we bring gifts. We offer to God all that is on our hearts and minds. We bring to Him our gifts and talents, our worries and concerns, our joys and sorrows. All of these we give to the Lord and offer to Him at the Liturgy. When the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward, this is a perfect time to take a few minutes and offer to the Lord your own gifts presenting them to Him and asking Him to help you use them for His glory and honor. Come and worship the Lord! Make Sunday Mass the most important thing you do in a week! There is nothing more worthwhile!

*"It is easier for the earth to exist without the sun than without the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!"-
Padre Pio*



For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. JN 3:16-17

God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is His love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. -Pope Francis' Lenten message, 2014

About a month ago, I was speaking with a priest who was sharing with me the basic outline of his upcoming homily. The homily was for the Epiphany when the wise men came to pay Jesus homage. It says in the Gospel for the Epiphany, "They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." As we discussed the wise men and the fact that they came to worship Jesus and brought Him gifts, our conversation turned to the reason we come to Mass. The main reason for going to Mass is to give worship to God. We owe this to God as we recognize our nothingness without Him. In fact, we would not exist if it were not for God who has given us life. I was really struck by the conversation and the reminder of the importance of worshipping God at Mass.

The reason I was so struck is because so often in speaking of the importance of going to Mass, what we receive from God is often stressed or focused upon. God gives us the gift of Jesus His Son in Holy Communion which strengthens us and helps us to live as disciples. We receive graces that help us on our journey to heaven. There is the gift of community and coming together to pray with and for each other. While these gifts are wonderful and part

Cindy's Corner



While at Mass last weekend we witnessed the beautiful Baptism of a little guy named Maximilian. I am delighted that Baptisms at Guardian Angels take place during our weekend Masses. What a renewal it is of our faith for which we are all gathered together. I can't help but break out into a wide smile every single time, along with many others. Seeing the parents and godparents bring the child forward, proclaiming the child's name before God and passing the child over to the arms of our priests to be plunged into the waters of Baptism is so powerful. This child clearly belongs to the Father, we are just helping to see God's beloved through.

The following morning I was reading and journaling in a book titled, "Stay Connected Journal for Catholic Women: Exploring the Catholic Classics". One journal question from the first chapter was, "Who are some important saints who have spoken about the centrality of the Eucharist? How did this impact their daily walk as Christians?" A certain quote came to my mind. "If angels could be jealous of man, they would be for one reason - Holy Communion". It's intriguing isn't it? Angels jealous of us? Are you kidding me? But why? Well then follows the answer, once disclosed, quite obvious, **Holy Communion**. *Oh, I see. I am humbled and awed.*

I knew at one time who spoke that quote, but my memory failed me. Google to the rescue, and within a moment, accompanied with a smile and a sigh, I discovered his name; ah yes, it was St. Maximilian Kolbe. There is so much to know about this amazing saint; today I'm just thinking of a snippet. He was a Catholic priest who celebrated the Mass numerous times in the horror of a starvation cell in Auschwitz. He brought the immense gift of Holy Communion to the several others who were in that cell with him. Their only food was spiritual as their physical bodies faded away. Did the Holy Communion have an impact on St. Maximilian's daily walk as a Christian? Yes, profoundly. He lived and died for his faith all the while bringing it to others.

I thought of little Maximilian's Baptism I witnessed the day before. I thought of him and all of us surrounded by angels in our Guardian Angels Church: bowing at the altar, glowing in stained glass proclaiming the Good News, guarding the children as they cross a bridge over raging water, etched in glass on the doors that enter our church and currently in adoration beside Jesus in the tabernacle. Our protectors, messengers, healers and guides. God doesn't need the angels; we do. They help deliver us from harm, guiding us safely back to our Father's house where we receive His Son Jesus in Holy Communion. St. Maximilian, the angels, Mass and Holy Communion - my prayer time has brought that all together for me.

None of this would have happened had I not been at Mass. Attending Mass and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist transforms us, helps change our perspective. I think of a treasure chest opened each week. The grace pours out along with some precious jewels beyond our imagination. We don't always know who, what or where that precious jewel will be in this holy hour, but they are there, at each and every Mass. They are present in the people around us, in the celebration of the sacraments, in our communal prayer and praise, and certainly in the gift of Holy Communion. Each and every one of us part of this Body of Christ-pertinent, precious and valuable. We, too, are the jewels in this treasure chest. Our gift might be small but don't think it isn't mighty. Our "Amen" as we receive Jesus is a validation of how precious we are to God.



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*