

LIVING EUCHARIST INITIATIVE

“Common Threads” Homily Helps & Intercessions

June 2009

June 7, 2009 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40 – *The Lord is God in the heavens above and on the earth below and there is no other.*

Romans 8:14-17 – *You received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, “Abba, Father!”*

Matthew 28:16-20 – *Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – HOMILY

Every Eucharist unites us to the Most Holy Trinity. It is the Prayer of Thanksgiving to the Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by the power and action of the Holy Spirit. The Eucharist leads us to recognize God’s intimate presence in our lives. God’s voice no longer speaks from the midst of fire (first reading) but from the intimacy of a table: “This is my Body; this is my Blood.” The Eucharist unites heaven and earth in one glorious act of praise, it is the place where we, as God’s people, acknowledge that “the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other.” This is the gathering where we celebrate our love and belief in a God we are invited to call “Abba, Father.” We cannot get closer to God, and to each other, on this side of heaven as we do at this table. But the nourishment we receive, through Word and Sacrament, is not comfort food for our own personal journey of faith. It empowers us to fulfill what we hear in the Gospel: “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations.” We are SENT to live and proclaim all that we receive, to share the Good News revealed by the One who fulfills at the Eucharist the great promise of today’s gospel: “I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – INTERCESSION

That through the Eucharist we will grow in knowledge and love of the Triune God and fulfill the command of today’s gospel. We pray to the Lord.

June 14, 2009 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Exodus 24:3-8 – *This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.*

Hebrews 9:11-15 – *The blood of Christ will cleanse our consciences.*

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26 – *This is my body. This is my blood.*

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – HOMILY

What a great opportunity we have today to preach about our diocesan initiative: *Living Eucharist*: Gathered, Nourished, Sent. We can remind our people about the contents of the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter. To highlight the power of God’s Word, the transforming power of Christ’s presence and our responsibility as disciples in a world so loved by God.

History is written, changed and transformed through the power of sacrificial love. The greatest act of sacrificial love took place on Calvary. Life and love were changed forever through Christ’s death and resurrection. This gift of salvation is experienced at every Eucharist where Christ continues to offer himself for the salvation of the world. At Mass we are transformed through Christ’s redeeming love. Sin and death continue to be conquered. The new covenant, the new bond of love and friendship, commitment and faithfulness between us and God is Jesus Christ. This new covenant is affirmed each time we gather around the table of the Lord. The Mass is the wedding feast of the Lamb. It is where Christ declares his love for us: for better for worse, richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, and for all eternity. This sacrificial love of Christ must be reflected through us. As Pope Benedict exhorted us in ‘*Sacramentum Caritatis*’ (Sacrament of Love): “Our communities, when they celebrate the Eucharist, must become ever more conscious that the sacrifice of Christ is for all, and that the Eucharist compels all who believe in him to become “bread that is broken” for others, and to work for the building of a more just and fraternal world. Each of us is truly called, together with Jesus, to be bread broken for the life of the world.”

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – INTERCESSION

That the sacrificial love of Christ, celebrated at the Eucharist, will be reflected in our daily lives. We pray to the Lord.

June 21, 2009 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:8-11 – *Here shall your proud waves be stilled!*

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 – *Behold, new things have come.*

Mark 4:35-41 – *Who is this whom even wind and sea obey?*

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – HOMILY

We are in the stormy season. We pray to be protected from hurricanes. In Florida we know from first hand experience how devastating storms can be, how much damage they can do. Over the last year or so we have been going through a financial storm. The financial downturn and crisis has turned our world upside down and has devastated and changed many people's lives. We recognize that we cannot build a loving and fulfilling life on greed, risk and self interest. Our values have been built on sand and not solid foundations. Every Sunday, everyday, we are invited by Christ to come to him in order to build our lives on solid foundations. The Eucharist is our weekly, daily, opportunity to put Christ at the center of everything: our choices, decisions and relationships. Christ keeps us together, united, as family and friends when the going gets tough. We need the loving strength and support of one another. This need is answered at the Eucharist. Very few people, if any, escape storms, challenges and difficulties in life. Jesus invites us to come to him. He invites us to gather and listen to his word and be strengthened through the food of everlasting life. If you are burdened, come to Christ. If you feel weighed down, come to Christ. If you feel anxious or afraid, come to Christ. There is nothing magical about the Eucharist. Our personal storms and difficulties will not suddenly disappear. But through the Eucharist Christ holds us together, restores faith in ourselves, and strengthens us to face the challenges that lie ahead. The Eucharist reassures us that we are not alone!

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – INTERCESSION

That through the Eucharist our faith will be strengthened to face the challenges, storms and difficulties of life. We pray to the Lord.

June 28, 2009 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 – *By the envy of the devil, death entered the world.*

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15 – *Your abundance should supply the needs of the poor.*

Mark 5:21-43 – *Little girl, I say to you, arise!*

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – HOMILY

Every Eucharist is a celebration of healing and life. Life is the most precious gift we have. It is the one gift we want to hold onto. It is the gift we find most difficult to let go of. If life is that precious to us just think how much more precious it is to the One who is the source of life. No wonder God has come among us in Jesus Christ and through him destroyed the evil of death. At every Eucharist we proclaim that God is the source of life, the conqueror of sin and death. At the Eucharist we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the day made by the Lord so that we can rejoice and be glad! The reason we gather on a Sunday is because it is the Resurrection Day! We have been blessed with the gift of eternal life. Praised be Jesus Christ. We also recognize that the Eucharist is a sacrament of healing: ‘Lord, only say the word and I shall be healed.’ We listen today to a miracle of healing and the raising of a young girl from death. God does not will anyone to suffer. God does not inflict sickness and suffering on anyone. Sickness, suffering and death are not God’s will. We see God’s will in today’s gospel: to heal, to restore to life. Sickness, suffering and death are part of our human condition, this we have to accept. But God in Jesus makes it clear that they will not have the last word; they have been redeemed by his cross and resurrection. Our God did not immune himself from suffering and death but embraced them upon the cross and transformed them through his resurrection. This truth we celebrate at the Eucharistic feast: ‘By dying you destroyed death, by rising you restored life, Lord Jesus, come in glory!’

- *LIVING EUCHARIST* “COMMON THREADS” – INTERCESSION

That through the Eucharist we will experience the healing presence of Christ. We pray to the Lord.