

1ST EUCHARIST HOMILY. 12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME.

TODAY IS THE 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. HOWEVER IN A WAY ITS AN EXTENSION OF LAST SUNDAYS CELEBRATION OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, BECAUSE WE HAVE ANOTHER GROUP OF CHILDREN RECEIVING THE BLESSED EUCHARIST FOR THE FIRST TIME. SO I AM ADDRESSING THIS HOMILY TO THEM.

IN JESUS TIME THE ONLY MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WAS BY VOICE OR BY WRITING.

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE IT WAS MUCH THE SAME EXCEPT THERE WAS THE PHONE, WE DIDN'T HAVE ONE AT HOME WE HAD TO GO TO THE PHONE BOX ON THE CORNER TO USE ONE.

TODAY YOU ARE PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN A DIGITAL AGE

THIS MOBILE PHONE FOR INSTANCE--- CAN BE USED TO COMMUNICATGE WITH SOMEONE NEARBY OR IN A DISTANTT OVERSEAS COUNTRY.

THE USE OF OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA. COMPUTERS, SMART PHONES, THE INTERNET, TEXTING, TWEETING ETC. ARE ALSO WAYS THROUGH WHICH WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION.

HOWEVER THIS ELECTRONIC WORLD IS NOT SECURE, PERSONAL INFORMATION CAN BE ABUSED.

IT CAN BE A DANGEROUS AREA WHERE CAUTION IS ADVISED.

BECAUSE IN THIS MEDIA, PEOPLES PAST CAN BE EVER-PRESENT. SOMETHING WE THOUGHT A DISTANT MEMORY CAN BE BROUGHT UP AT ANY TIME

TODAY WE KEEP ANOTHER TYPE OF MEMORY.

IT'S A MEMORY THAT WILL NOT HARM US OR PREVENT OUR GROWTH, BUT ONE THAT GIVES US LIFE & PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE.

ITS NOT A MEMORY, IN A SENCE THAT IT REMINDS OF LONG AGO, BUT RATHER A MEMORY THAT MAKES THE PAST PRESENT.

IT'S THE MEMORY OF A SELF GIVING JESUS- HIS LIFE, HIS MINISTRY.

TODAYS WE CELEBRATES THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST;- HIS PRESENCE AMONG US UNDER THE APPEARANCE OF BREAD AND WINE.

WE REMEMBER THAT AT THE LAST SUPPER JESUS GAVE US THE EUCHARIST WHEN HE SAID "THIS IS MY BODY & THIS IS MY BLOOD" AND HE TOLD US TO CONTINUE TO DO THIS IN MEMORY OF HIM

TODAY YOU WILL RECEIVE GIFTS FROM YOUR PARENTS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. A ROSARY PERHAPS OR A RELIGIOUS ITEM OF SOME SORT.

BUT THE MOST PRESCIOUS GIFT YOU CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE IS THE EUCHARIST, FOR THE FIRST TIME.

A PRESCIOUS GIFT FROM GOD, A GIFT THAT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES, THE GIFT OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS.

A GIFT TO BE TREASURED ALWAYS.

A GIFT THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU MANY TIMES OVER, AND EVERY TIME YOU RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST IT WILL BE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM GOD.

JESUS GAVE US THE EUCHARIST AT THE LAST SUPPER BEFORE HE OFFERED UP HIS LIFE FOR US ON THE CROSS.

HE DIED FOR OUR SINS AND TO OPEN THE WAY FOR US TO GET TO HEAVEN.

TODAY WE HAVE A DISPLAY HERE OF GRAPES AND BREAD SYMBOLISING THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE THAT WILL BE CHANGED INTO THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

JESUS CHOSE THESE ELEMENTS FOR A REASON BECAUSE THE EUCHARIST TEACHES US THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY, THE BOND THAT THE EUCHARIST ESTABLISHES ENCOURAGING US TO SEEK UNION WITH ONEANOTHER.

AS YOU GO FORWARD AFTER MASS TODAY REMEMBER WHAT A SPECIAL, AND PRESCIOUS, GIFT THE EUCHARIST IS IN YOUR LIVES.

REMEMBER TO APPROACH THE EUCHARIST WITH GREAT LOVE AND RESPECT.

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REMEMBER THE PRICE JESUS PAID FOR OUR SALVATION AND HELP.

REMEMBER THAT THE EUCHARIST, THE BODY
AND BLOOD OF JESUS IS FREELY AVAILABLE TO
YOU AT ANY TIME.

REMEMBER TO APPRECIATE THIS GIFT
PARTICULARLY THROUGH PRAYER.

PERHAPS LIKE THIS.:-

“Dear God I know that you give me many gifts
The gift of your Son Jesus Christ in Holy Communion
Is the greatest of all. How can I ever thank you enough
for this special gift.

At mass we are called to be like Jesus by loving
And serving one another in the world

As I become more like Jesus please continue to

Help me. Show me the places and ways that

I can bring your love to others, in my family, in my
neighborhood, in my community and with my friends

I ask this in Jesus name

Amen.

