



Do You Also Want to Leave?

by Father David Nuss

Director of Vocations

From the beginning and throughout the centuries the Eucharist has been a source of *division*.

The teaching of Jesus about the Eucharist requires a response; some say “yes” while some say “no”. Some believe and follow Jesus, while many return to their former way of life and no longer accompany him (cf. John 6:66).

In one of the most poignant scenes in the New Testament, the crowds are leaving, filing out, taking off and it appears that the great hope so marking the beginning of the sixth chapter of John has been lost. Jesus turns to the disciples and asks, “Do you also want to leave?” (John 6:67).

What a question! You get the sense that the whole Church is hanging in the balance. If they leave it’s over. If they leave then everyone has left and Jesus stands all alone.

Will you leave, too, because my teaching about the Eucharist is too hard to believe? Peter speaks for the Church - that is, for us - and replies, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

Peter’s response is the great Catholic answer! Even as the crowds leave, the Church (speaking in Peter’s voice) gives the right answer: “Lord, we accept! We accept your words as words of eternal life!”

There is something about the question surrounding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist that calls forth from us a decision in which there is no wiggle-room. With regards to the teaching of Jesus about the Holy Eucharist, you are either with the Lord or you are against Him.

Do You Also Want to Leave?

Candidly speaking, the saints have always loved the Eucharist. They have always believed and cherished the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

It is a tough teaching - always has been, always will be. Time and again, good and smart people have tried to find ways around it, ways to dismiss it and the Church has resolutely said “no” to all those who do not accept Jesus’ teaching about the Eucharist. Through the ages, the Church has resolutely affirmed Jesus’ teaching about the meaning of the Holy Eucharist.

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. My flesh is true food, my blood is true drink” (John 6:53, 55).

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man...”

John 6:53, 55

So, then, what about you?

Do you accept Jesus’ words or will you walk away?

Calendar of Events

October 17, 2006

Be My Guest Dinner - At Saint Patrick of Heatherdowns, Toledo. An opportunity for high school juniors and seniors, college and post-college young adults to join Bishop Blair, priests and sisters as we explore the lifestyles of priesthood and consecrated life. For more information, contact Sr. Marilyn Marie Ellerbrock at mellerbrock@toledodiocese.org.

October 26-29, 2006

Fall Live-In - Pontifical College Josephinum Fall Live-In Weekend for young men (high school juniors and seniors, and college students) who are interested in learning more about seminary life. For more information or to register contact: Father John Allen at 614-985-2255.

November 3-4, 2006

Discernment Weekend - For men at Mount Saint Mary Seminary. This overnight experience helps a man look at the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. There will be a variety of events as well as time for prayer and reflection. For more information contact: Rev. Edward Smith at esmith@athenaeum.edu

CATHOLIC CATECHISM CORNER

SUNDAY

The Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life. “Sunday is the day on which the paschal mystery is celebrated in light of the apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church. (cc 2177)

SIGHTINGS ON THE WEB

Check out the Schedule of Events for upcoming events related to vocations and discernment at www.toledovocations.com

Did You Know?

- There are currently 54 men and women from or in the Diocese of Toledo who are in formation for priesthood or consecrated life.
- Groundbreaking for Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral was in 1925. The building was structurally complete in 1931.

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