

Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

Fruit of Our Labor, Work of Our Hands

If our experience of Eucharist does not reflect our actual life experience, then we either are being disingenuous about Eucharist or dishonest about our life. Or both.

Sometimes I wonder if we struggle to understand Eucharist in church because we don't first open ourselves to eucharist in the world. If we close ourselves to the basic humanity in one another, how will we ever see the divinity in bread and wine?

Eucharist is so much more meaningful when we bring our own flesh and blood to it, when we bring the real presence of our own human experience of brokenness and vulnerability, when we come giving the fruit of our labors and the work of our hands, when we offer ourselves in love for and with one another.

Living with Real Presence: Eucharist As An Approach to Life
S. James Meyer, 23rd Publications

Questions To Ponder:

What have you learned by doing?

Can you recall ever having an experience at Mass which was meaningful and enriching, where you left feeling very glad you went? Jot down what you remember about this experience.

What is the work of your human hands that you can offer at Mass? That you can offer to the world?

Lectio Divina: Read Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Make a list of the ways in which you use your talents this week, how you are contributing to a better world for your household and community. Place this list in your pocket as you go to church on Sunday as a visible sign of the works of your human hands as part of your offering to God.