

# Pentecost Sunday

May 28, 2023

## Real Presence In Our Relationship With Society

*As we live more deeply in real presence, our spirituality ripples into an ever-widening holy communion with all God's people. At a relatively rudimentary level, we see only our individual relationship with God. We acknowledge that other people also have relationships with God, but we don't connect them with our own. At this level, we say things like, "I'm just here to get my Eucharist" because that's how we see and understand. Life's still mostly about us, and the flow of love's energy in our life is outside-in. Eucharist, the Body of Christ, is seen as a life-giving object we receive. This is the level at which we understand when we're in second grade and we make our first Communion.*

*As we grow deeper in spirituality, we realize it's not all about us. Living in loving relationship with society, with community—that might be the hardest part of being Christian. In this regard, Eucharist is a tremendous gift. But we have to enter into it fully. I mean really enter into it, not just scrape over the surface and think we're somehow righteous because we go to Mass once a week and hang a rosary from the mirror in the car.*

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

### Questions to Ponder:

Identify a gift which your parents passed on to you. How has this characteristic, this value, or this way of thinking or acting been a positive influence throughout your life?

What are some of the similarities that you share with people in your inner circles? What are some of the differences? What supports your relationships in spite of such differences?

What steps can you take to be more fully present to your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors?

### Lectio Divina: Read John 20:19-31

*Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*

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 Easter journey?

**Challenge for the Week:** Make a list of the times in which you felt vulnerable this week. Place this list in your pocket as you go to church on Sunday as a visible sign of your brokenness before God and the need for healing, mercy, and nourishment.