

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

Real Presence In Our Relationship With God

We never grow deeper or love more by knowing more. We do so by virtue of our heartfelt, soul-stirring experiences and relationships. This is something the saints and mystics understand intuitively that the rest of us keep struggling to figure out. We can't learn to swim by thinking about it, reading about it, or even praying about it. At some point, we have to jump in the water, splash feverishly, and find ourselves in over our heads. That's just how life works. It's also how love works. And it's exactly what Jesus did.

*As Christ, the very incarnation of God's own self, plunged completely into the full experience of life, so must we, as beings created in God's own image. At some point, we learn to recognize that rolling up our sleeves and plunging both arms into the clay of life, just as God did in our creation story, is a very sacred endeavor. We are not here as consumers of life but as co-creators of life, called to break ourselves open, pour ourselves out, and share ourselves abundantly. Indeed, it really is better to give than to receive. **Do this** in memory of me.*

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

Questions To Ponder:

What experiences of life bring God rushing to the forefront of your mind and heart?

What is your brand imprint for God? If you needed to "sell" God to someone, what language or images would you use? How would you include the Eucharist?

In what area of your life do you need to plunge in, get your hands dirty, and create something good for the life of the world? Commit to a plan of action outlined here:

Lectio Divina: Read John 14:1-12

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

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: Create something this week. Anything! Create an object, a new experience, a new relationship; anything is fair game. Then, with this in mind, participate in Eucharist this week celebrating this new expression of life created in love.