

"THE GREAT MIRACLE REALLY LIVED"

(The Lady of All Peoples, 45th apparition, March 20, 1953)

Opening the way to a civilization of love, the Pope, with his penetrating and divinized regard, focusses our attention on the daily Miracle of the Eucharist.

In his Apostolic Letter for the Year of the Eucharist, the Holy Father opens us to something new. Although the Gospel, the Councils and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* make no mention of this, Pope John Paul II was not afraid to innovate when speaking of the Eucharist as a way of life. Is that not an unusual way to consider this great Sacrament?

Here is what he says: "The dismissal at the end of each Mass [here the Holy Father is referring to the "*Ite Missa est*". "*Ite*" literally means "Go, you are being sent".] is a charge given to Christians, inviting them to work for the spread of the Gospel and the imbuing of society with Christian values.

"The Eucharist not only provides the interior strength needed for this mission, but

is also – in some sense – its plan. For the Eucharist is a mode of being, which passes from Jesus into each Christian, through whose testimony it is meant to spread throughout society and culture. For this to happen, each member of the faithful must assimilate, through personal and communal meditation, the values which the Eucharist expresses, the attitudes it inspires, the resolutions to which it gives rise. Can we not see here a special charge which could emerge from this Year of the Eucharist?" (Pope John Paul II, *Stay With Us, Lord*, October 7, 2004, nos 24-25)

The Holy Father hopes that we will see in this not "a" but "THE" special charge of the Year of the Eucharist which is the summit of a whole trajectory elaborated over more than two decades. (Cf. *id.*, no. 4.) That is impressive.

In order to give us food for meditation, chapters 13 to 17 inclusively in Saint

John's Gospel present Jesus' farewell discourse. In a sense, that is His spiritual last testament. We know the importance of a will. Jesus states particularly that He wishes to unite us to the Eucharist. Stated in such a cursory fashion, it may shock us, but why should we be scandalized? Why not marvel instead at the beauty of God's plan which is being progressively revealed to us? In support of these comments, we have in the Church this old saying: *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* (what we pray indicates what we believe). During this time of Lent, *The Liturgy of the Hours* or the breviary proposes the following to our faith:

"Be men of tomorrow. Take His body as of now; He bids you to become Eucharist. And you will see that God takes hold of you, that He shelters you in His life and makes of you men of His own blood." (Lenten hymn from the French breviary, no. 2, pp. 19-20)

It is up to us to enter into it and we will see that much more could be said on the subject.

Father Benoît Picard

– I have just finished reading the English edition of the paper *Le Royaume*, no. 170. How enlightening!

Betty Corcoran

– Father Benoît, we miss you so much, but we are consoled because of the beautiful work you did in Hot Springs and elsewhere. May you continue to be blessed by the Lord.

A Catholic priest

– The articles in this paper always contain such a spiritual wealth and coherence that we look for. One needs to say "bravo!" to Jeannine Thiffault-Blanchette for her wonderful legends written over the Christmas season. They are the joy of my son when I read them to him. Thank you for the excellent articles. United in prayer.

Cathleen Wolensky-Courchaine

ENGLISH RETREATS

Friday, April 22 to Sunday, April 24

Theme: "*Mass Is Worth Living!*"

Retreat master: Fr. Daniel Gauthier

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(5 days or weekend only)

Tuesday, July 19 to Sunday, July 24

Theme: "*The Year of the Eucharist and the Transfiguration of Human Love*" – Retreat master: Fr. Benoît Picard

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For information and registration, contact Charlotte Bélanger at:

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