

SAID ED May 6, 2012

Welcome to the Table - First Communion

Today we honor our children who are making their First Holy Communion at our weekend Masses. Thanks to their parents and families who have brought them to this happy day and taught them by word and example that Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Cup of our Salvation. Parents, by your fine example you have helped these little ones understand Jesus' words when he said unless you eat this bread and drink this cup you will not have life within you! It's your consistent example that will help these children understand that this special day is only their FIRST Communion and many many more Holy Communions will follow this happy day.

This is also a day to give thanks to the Lord for the wonderful example of all the people of our parish. Because of this fine example of our community, these "little ones" have learned that faith filled celebration and reception of the Eucharist is the way we all sustain the Lord's life in our hearts and in our midst. The Good Shepherd of the Gospel invites us all to stay close to Him in the Eucharist. and to receive the love that he wants to offer us. Thank you for modeling this belief for these children who come to the Table of the Lord for the first time this weekend. May the Lord bless us all for our fine example.

First Communion weekend is one of the occasions on which we have exceptionally large numbers of people join us in prayer. Family and friends from near are with us in the celebration and rightly so. But this is also a time when we see many folks who are not "regulars" and I wonder why? This is also the case at Easter and Christmas. I get to wondering why people do not join us at other times? Why do they stay away? Do they feel welcome at other times during the year? Do people believe they are not welcome because of a divorce, or because of their sexual orientation? Is it because of the sexual abuse scandal in our Church that continues to linger in the hearts of many, or maybe, because they were upset by the action of some person in ministry some time in the past?

Yet, isn't it wonderful that our faith remains strong enough to bring all of us here on special occasions such as today and on "high holy days" like Easter and Christmas. Please be assured that you are always welcome at the Church of the Assumption on every occasion. Know too that my heart, my ear and my office door are always open to you if you want to talk through some concern about your faith or your relationship with the church. I know I am also speaking for Fr. John and the rest of the staff as well.

Please don't stay away from the Table of the Lord. Don't be put off by the sinfulness of the Church. None of us are perfect here. We all need the Divine Physician. Come and let Him heal you. We miss you and we need you. Do come again!

Have a great week!
