



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 18, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Ben Babaran

*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world."*

The above passage is why we go to St. James each Sunday. We go for the Bread, the Bread of Life.

Whenever I read this passage, I recall the time I woke up from my open-heart surgery in December 2020. I remember my beloved Jo's hands holding mine. I felt her presence, the presence of someone who cared for me and loved me. At that time, I wondered how long has she been holding my hands?

From that experience, I realized that it is not a matter of learning about the doctrine of the Eucharist. It is not a matter of understanding transubstantiation. It's a matter of knowing that "When you take this bread, you take me, and you take an appreciation for the fact that I have poured out my blood for you."

We call it "Real Presence." Real presence is incomparable! It cannot compare to any relationship because only the Son of God could allow us to experience, not the divinity of God, but the humanity of the Son of God, that we might know that he is one with us in every way. One with us, not only in love, but one with us in the lives we live.

We call it "Holy Communion." It means a total communion with God Himself through Jesus. A communion by feeling God's presence through Jesus and letting God feel our humble presence. It is, in addition, a communion, each of us with each other. A communion that is to last for all eternity - the gift that Jesus gives.

We go to Holy Communion all the time, but many times, we do not realize that we are supposed to be in communion with each other and forgive each other. Above all, we are called at every Mass to extend that communion with the people outside St. James, especially the hungry. Being in communion with them is to feed them, because Jesus is with us and the things that he did, we must do now.

May we walk in the grace of God. That way, we may grace others with God's presence.