

From the Pastor's Office

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

We remember the line from the movie, "If you build it they will come." One thing I have learned about Parish ministry is this, "If you offer them food, especially free food they will definitely come." Clearly food plays a very important place in our everyday life. There are days when I say, "I am absolutely starving." Then I have some food and an hour later I am ready to run the marathon. Food has the capacity to bring me back to life again. It invigorates me. It revives my senses. In our Catholic world we are preoccupied with spiritual food. The Eucharist is very much a Catholic thing. The Protestant Churches don't understand what all the fuss is about. I think of those people who go on retreat. The idea is that they depart from the temptations of the world and they receive spiritual food from the Lord. God feeds His people. "If you offer them food, they will come." I wonder if Jesus said that in the Bible? In a fashion He did. There they all were on the mountain with no food. Never fear Jesus is here. Out of nothing Jesus provides them with food, divine food. On this feast day we are asked to honor the mystery of the Eucharist. I marvel at the faith. I remember that day a few years ago when they told us that the remnant of a hurricane was going to pass through Austin on a Saturday. We were all told to stay at home. Out of concern for our parishioner safety we told people not to come to Mass at 5:00 p.m., that would be too dangerous. Because I was scheduled I figured I better go down to the Church in case some person was stranded and needed shelter from the rain. I couldn't believe it. At 4:45 p.m. about 100 people arrived for Mass. Didn't they realize that there was a hurricane a blowing? Not even a hurricane could stop these people from receiving the Eucharist. It tells us a lot about our Catholic point of view. Only in God is my soul at rest. If St. Catherine's is open in the middle of a hurricane, I'm going. We love our Church and we love our Eucharist. I might not have the theological language to articulate it but I need my Eucharist. I need to feel God is close to me. I wonder, if we charged for the Eucharist would anyone come?



With love,
Fr. Pat