

FOLLOWING THE MARKERS KEEPS US SAFE

I remember as a boy, my brother Ralph and I would fish frequently in Barnegat Bay. The fishing was usually good. We would catch snappers, blowfish, kingfish, weakfish, eels, and some undesirables like sea robins and oyster crackers. We would fish from a rented rowboat and it was usually about a twenty minute ride from the marina in Bayville to the better fishing spots. I remember too that we would watch the channel markers so that we would stay in water deep enough to handle the outboard motor. I recall the channel markers were red triangles and green squares. The markers pointed out to ships the borders of the safe channel.

In the chapel of the Sacred Heart Center of the Salesian Sisters in Newton, NJ, there is an impressive window. The window depicts a dream that St. John Bosco, the cofounder of the Salesians had. In the dream, Don Bosco saw the Pope guiding the bark of St. Peter, ie, the church. He was guiding the ship through stormy seas. There was a marker on either side of the ship. Each marker was a pillar. Atop one pillar was the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, and atop the other pillar was Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother. The Pope was using the Eucharist and Mary to find the safe path for the bark of St. Peter. The message of God in the dream to Don Bosco and to the Church was that the Eucharist and Mary guide us into the safe path in life, even in the most troubling times. The message of the dream of Don Bosco can speak to us today in the troubling times of the pandemic. In the current troubling times, the Eucharist and Mary will show us the way to life and peace. We can struggle with feelings of fear, isolation, insecurity, anger, depression, exhaustion, and other troubling sentiments. Again, keeping our eyes on the markers of the Eucharist and Mary will keep us on a safe course.

The famed Italian singer, Andrea Bocelli was asked to give a concert for all of Italy recently in the Duomo (the cathedral) of Milan. Here is the link to his concert of April 12, 2020. about the Eucharist and Mary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU>

God bless!