

Dear Members of Sacred Heart,

From a very old and familiar song:

“Look beyond the bread you eat; see your Savior and your Lord.
Look beyond the cup you drink; see his love poured out as blood.”

These last two weeks of July are usually the time for our Religious Education Summer Program. What a wonderful time to spend with the young girls and boys of Sacred Heart as they gather together with our devoted catechists to make their journey of faith, to find their way to the Lord. Most days, they begin by celebrating the 8:30 AM Mass with many of our parishioners who are always happy to welcome them. After 2 of our Masses, time is set aside for an annual “Ask Father John” question and answer period. I am always amazed at their interests and insights regarding our beautiful traditions and practices. Often times I find myself heading to the Catholic Catechism to find the correct answer to a rather complex question. After the religious questions come the personal questions which are usually easier to answer: What is your favorite color? Yellow. What is your favorite food? Pasta. Do you have a pet? A special cat named “Noah”. I have to admit, I did get stumped this year when I was asked: Who is your favorite Disney Princess? I am so sorry. I have no idea.

But I did respond without hesitation when asked: What do you like most about being a priest? I informed them it was exactly what we are doing this morning - Gathering for Eucharist, listening to Scripture, sharing prayer, peace and joyful gratitude and receiving Holy Communion.

In today’s Gospel, when asked by Jesus to feed the crowds, their response was; “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” They had the Son of God there! Imagine gathering with all those children and telling them: “A plate of wafers and a cup of wine are all we have here.” We have Jesus here! “Look beyond” the song goes. “Look beyond” Jesus tells us, that we might taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Have a blessed August.

Father John