

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



Personal Reflection: My Eucharistic Revival: A Gift from Mother Mary

Friend of Saint Joseph Parish, Pam Wiwel, recently shared her story with us:

Two decades ago I went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorja, Yugoslavia. It was a time when Mother Mary had a special presence in this particular area of the world. I spent most of my pilgrimage alone, walking and experiencing the peace, repentance and mercy of this place.

I discovered a very small chapel within a cemetery away from the crowds. It had a rough sketch of Christ on the cross pinned to a wall behind a stone slab altar. All over the floor were tiles on which an artist was sketching tiny parts of the picture, that when placed together, would transform the wall sketch into a mosaic of the crucifix.

It was in this setting with Christ before me and parts of Him on the Cross surrounding me at my feet that I prayed the most fervent prayer that I had ever had voiced to Mary. It was simply that she would lead me to her Son in a way that I would know Him deeply within my heart. I prayed that she decreased a little in my spirituality, and He increased greatly in the Eucharist to me!

From that time till the present, at the Consecration of the Mass, my heart is filled with Christ in a deep, fervent way as I welcome Him into my midst. And when I receive Him in Communion, I partake of His love, care and concern for me and I of Him!

And the Eucharist remains beyond the Mass, as we go forth and are open to being led by Christ and Mother Mary into the lives of others who may need someone to care, listen, show kindness, concern and provide mercy and forgiveness so that their pieces of life can be made whole again within God's love. Sometimes Christ and His Mother lead us out of our comfort zones to encounter these broken people. I pray that I will be able to understand what Christ wants of me in these situations of His surprise when I am tempted to walk away!

May this Lent bring all of us into prayer, fasting but also the almsgiving of time given by ourselves to others! So many people's pieces need to move onward to be made whole through their own Eucharistic Revival.

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- Pam