

“...and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand for you’”

There’s a very simple and beautiful reality that is contained in these words, a reality that can often escape us...

To give a bit of insight, the ‘Kingdom of God’ that is mentioned; may be understood, in one dimension, to be Jesus Christ Himself! [See Pope Benedict XVI *Jesus of Nazareth, Part I*]

In other words, **Jesus...both true God** (the true fulfillment of all your longings, aches, and desires) and **true man** (who deeply understands our lives and can relate to us in all things but sin) is at hand for you!!

Jesus truly *is* **Emmanuel (God with us)**. And He is here, at hand, for each of you!

What do we...what do *you* do, with the reality of a living God?

What does it mean for you?

How will you respond?

When I returned to our faith at the end of my senior year in high school I took to heart this simple and profound reality, especially in the reality of Jesus giving Himself for us in and through the Eucharist. And so, I began to spend time in eucharistic adoration and daily mass as I discerned God’s will for my life.

If we claim that Jesus, God, (body, blood, soul, and divinity) is in the Eucharist, rather, **IS** the Eucharist, then when I wrestle with questions such as “what am I going to do in life? or “where is God in this or that sorrow or suffering,” **HE’S** going to have the ultimate and true answer(s) for me!

And guess what? You can go be with Him any time!

And what a wondrous and “odd” or, rather, mysterious reality it is.

Because, when you are in the presence of Jesus, alive in the tabernacle, there’s no fanfare of angels or thunderclaps...but ***SILENCE***...

This silence, may be uncomfortable or even frustrating at first...but I assure you, if you wrestle and persist in it with sincere longing, He will draw you into His rest and peace...you will then see that the silence is not empty...but filled with God.

He will teach you to quiet your heart and listen to His ever so quiet, yet profound and loving voice.

And, when those times come for you to return to the noise, and at times chaos of the world and your daily life, He will teach you to maintain and always find ways to turn towards Him and His peace in the midst of it all...why?

So that you may carry His Light to those who do not know Him. Those in need of Him. And that You and they may truly know that **God is with us! (with you!)**

Are you able to see, even a *little*, that we are given such a *wonderful* gift!?

Our God, Our Lord Jesus, invites you now to awaken to this reality, to His existence, presence, and activity now, and in the life you live from this moment!

Why do you even come to mass? Don't cheat yourself of the sublime reality behind it all!
Awaken! At mass, our God is present and active in various tangible ways!

He is present in: Our gathering, the Proclamation of the Word, the Eucharist, and in our Priest(s)

Our God delights in being with His people! See how accessible He makes Himself for you!

Aren't you tired of the supposed "distance" between you and Him?
Well...now is the time to draw near!

When this fundamental relationship between you and God is established, then will it be easier to discern his Will for your life.

Then can we truly rejoice in our God as the 1st reading and psalm speak of!
Then can we bear witness and find strength in God as St. Paul!

I can be a simple guy at times, with very simple ways of thinking. Before we are sent out (as the 72), is it not good to know who sends us?

How blest, that here at Queen of Peace, our Lord is accessible in the adoration chapels 24/7, just for you!

Come and be with our God!

Let us end by asking our Dear Lady, the Queen of Peace, to bring us closer to her Son. That we may grow in our relationship with our God and that we may be alive in our faith.

Hail Mairy...