



FATHER RANDY OFFERS

"Cultivating Holy Appetites"

Saint Paul gives us one of the clearest descriptions of the Christian life:

***"Do not conform yourselves to this age,
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."
(Romans 12:1)***

Notice that Paul does not begin by saying, "Try harder." He says, in effect, learn to see differently.

A renewed mind is a mind that gradually begins to see the world as God sees it. It learns to recognize what is truly good, what is worth wanting, what is worth sacrificing for, and what finally leads to life.

That is why these three lines matter so much:

**The Christian heart is formed by the biblical mind.
Our appetites are trained by the Bread of Life.
What we treasure today becomes what we hunger for tomorrow.**

The first line reminds us that Scripture is not simply information. The Word of God reshapes our imagination. It teaches us what love looks like, what freedom means, what suffering can accomplish, and what a human life is ultimately for.

The second line reminds us that our desires also need conversion. At Mass, Christ gives us the Bread of Life. Week after week, He teaches our hearts to hunger for something deeper than comfort, success, recognition, or control. We become what we receive.

And the third line may be the most practical of all: **what we treasure today becomes what we hunger for tomorrow.** Whatever we repeatedly give our attention, time, affection, and energy to will eventually shape our desires. Our treasures train our tastes.

Then Jesus gives us a startling picture of the renewed mind in today's Gospel:

***"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)***

The unrenewed mind says, "Avoid suffering at all costs." The renewed mind asks, "How can even this be offered to God?"

The unrenewed mind says, "Protect your life." The renewed mind hears Jesus say, "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

The unrenewed mind asks, "What do I want?" The renewed mind begins asking, "Lord, what do You want to form in me?"

This is the slow work of Christian transformation. We bring our minds to the Scriptures, our appetites to the Eucharist, and our treasures to the Lord.

And little by little, grace changes not only what we believe, but what we love.

Perhaps that is our prayer this week:

***Lord, renew my mind.
Train my appetites.
Teach me to treasure
what leads me to You.***

Fr. Randy Timmerman



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come spend some quiet time in prayer, reflection, and grace before the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at multiple locations and times this September:

- St. Mary, Portage: Tuesday, September 1st at 3:45 PM.
- Good Shepherd, Westfield: Tuesday, September 1st starting at 4:15 PM, concluding with Benediction at 5:00 PM.
- St. Mary, Pardeeville: Friday, September 4th at 8:30 AM.
- St. John the Baptist, Montello: Friday, September 4th immediately following the 8:30 AM Mass, concluding with Benediction at 10:15 AM.
- St. Mary, Pardeeville: Tuesday, September 8th with Bishop Hying at 7:00 pm

Confession is available during all scheduled Adoration times. Take this opportunity to find peace, seek forgiveness, and deepen your relationship with Christ.

