



From the Pastor
The Most Holy Body
& Blood of Christ - A
June 11, 2023

**DO YOU REGULARLY VISIT
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?**

Since 1986, the spokesman for a motel chain **Motel 6** ended commercials by saying, "I'm Tom Bodett for Motel 6, and we'll leave the light on for you." Every **Catholic**

Church or place where the **Blessed Sacrament** is reserved [almost] always also leaves a light on for us - the **Sanctuary Lamp** - to signify the **Lord's Eucharistic Presence** in the **Tabernacle**. [I say 'almost' since the **Tabernacle** is empty, and the **Sanctuary Lamp** is unlit from before **Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord Supper** until after **Holy Communion** at the **Easter Vigil Mass**.] While we are obligated to receive **Holy Communion** at least once a year, from the **1st Sunday of Lent** to the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity** [the **Easter Duty**], and should receive, when properly disposed, as we fulfill the obligation to attend the **Saturday Anticipated** or **Sunday Mass**, or each day at daily **Mass** - we should also regularly '**Make a Visit**' to the **Blessed Sacrament** whenever possible.

In this 28th part of our years-long series on the **2022-2025 National Eucharistic Revival**, we reflect on this great gift under the title, '**Viaticum**' or '**Food for the Journey**.' While this mainly refers to our **last Holy Communion** as we prepare for death: our final steps into **God's** merciful arms, we, who know not 'the day nor the hour,' must consider each **Holy Communion** our **last Holy Communion!** As a child, I was taught to bless myself every time I passed a **Catholic Church**, out of respect for the **Lord's Eucharistic Presence** within it. And whenever we passed an ambulance or fire truck with sirens blaring, we did the same for whoever was in peril. These great customs give evidence of our **Faith-in-action**, as does a visit to the **Blessed Sacrament**.

A SIMPLE VISIT MADE SOME GREAT SAINTS!

As our **Bishops** note in their document that explained why we need a three-year **National Eucharistic Revival**, simply by spending time before our **Lord**, truly present in the **Blessed Sacrament**, led some into the **Catholic Church** - and into **Heaven**. To quote them, "**Blessed** Carlo Acutis, a young Italian teenager, who died at the age of fifteen and was beatified in 2020, used to

say: 'The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.' Blessed Carlo attained sanctity at such a young age because the Eucharist was at the center of his life. He attended Mass daily ... prayed each day before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration ... discovered the joy of friendship with Jesus and brought that joy, the joy of the Gospel, to others." [NER #52]

Another modern-day **Saint, José Sánchez del Río**, was a Mexican teenager, martyred at just 14, and canonized in 2016. He endured insults, prison, torture and death threats for his **Catholic Faith** - empowered by his firm belief that **JESUS IS TRULY PRESENT** in the **Eucharist**. He was able to receive **Viaticum** - his **Last Communion** - which had been smuggled into prison along with other provisions. He stands as an excellent role model for people of all ages, especially teenagers, who so often take their **Faith** for granted - or half-heartedly practice it, if at all!

In the hope of a cure for her ailing husband, the then-**Episcopalian Elizabeth Ann Seton** went to Italy, where they stayed as guests in a **Catholic** family's home and took part in **Eucharistic Adoration**. Though he died, leaving her a widow at 30 with 5 children, she had been so moved by our **Lord's Real Presence** that she converted, and eventually became the **first American-born Saint!**

To all who have left the **Catholic Church** or stopped practicing their **Faith** - please come home! The light is on, and the **Lord Jesus** awaits you! I truly believe that if we truly understood our **Lord's True, Real Presence** in the **Blessed Sacrament**, nothing could keep us away! No misunderstanding, no scandal, no [supposed] stern look or action from a **Priest, Sister, Brother** or **Catechist**, nothing should keep anyone from coming to their **Church Home**. As **Saint Paul** so aptly stated about us **Church Ministers**: "**we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.**" [2 Corinthians 4:7] So, do not let **our sins**, or **your own sins**, keep you from **Christ** and His **Church**; be reconciled; come home!

In Christ,

Father Mark

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