

## **SOME THOUGHTS FOR OUR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**

As I indicated in last week's bulletin, the U.S. Bishops have launched a 3-year process of re-invigorating our Catholic faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Hopefully, this will also lead to each of us participating more vibrantly and faithfully in the celebration of the Eucharist. Part of this revival effort is in response to two alarming trends: (1) Catholics no longer believing in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and (2) Catholics no longer participating in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist on weekends. We have certainly seen this second trend within our own parish and within our own families for a long time. Whether or not the first trend is part of the issue is not as easy to measure.

However, it is my experience that even among church-going Catholics, many do not really understand correctly the nature of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Some Catholics make it sound like magic is happening during the Mass, which is certainly not the case. Others explain the real presence of Christ in two extremes. One makes it sound like we are cannibals, eating and drinking the physical flesh and blood of Christ, which is not what the Church teaches. The other extreme reduces the real presence of Christ merely to our thoughts or feelings that are generated by the celebration; this is also not what the Church teaches. This is why I announced last week that we will begin a series in the Fall on ***"How Do We Understand the Eucharist as Catholics?"***

It will be held on the following Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM:

September 20

September 27

October 11

October 18

These sessions are free to registered parishioners. You are also encouraged to bring (for free) a guest, a friend, someone who might be struggling with their faith, someone who may not be coming to the Eucharist very often, or someone who might be considering becoming Catholic. In the next few weeks, please register for this mini-course by calling the parish office at (814) 774-4108, ext. 4 or emailing the parish office at [Office@stjohnqirard.org](mailto:Office@stjohnqirard.org).

God's Peace,

Fr. Scott

***DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022***