



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, I'll continue our meditation on the Eucharist as Presence.

I hope you spent some time this week pondering over the incredible presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, that He would be there waiting for us, a prisoner of the tabernacle, as it were, so that we could approach Him any day, any time.

I mentioned last week that we become like our friends, for as we spend more time with them, we take on their attributes. Jesus desires for us to become more like Him. "God is love," St. John tells us (I John 4:8, 16), and so to become more like Him, we have to grow in love. We see the power of Jesus' love in the Eucharist in many ways. The height of it is that the whole Pascal Mystery is present in the Eucharist. What is the Pascal Mystery?

Pascal is synonymous with "Passover," and in this sense, it is the mystery of what God has done for us by suffering, dying, rising, ascending into heaven, and sending us the Holy Spirit. When we look at the Eucharist, we see all of that in one moment.

The photographer Hiroshi Sugimoto wanted to take a picture of a movie... not a picture of a single point in the movie, but a single picture of a whole movie. He set up his camera in a movie theatre and opened the lens when the movie began, closing it when the movie ended. When the film was developed, all of the mixture of light during the movie caused the picture of the movie screen to be gleaming white. When we look at the Eucharist, all we see is white, but what is there is the whole "movie" – as it were – of Christ's love for us poured out on the Cross.

Jesus wills our good, and does what it takes for our good to come about:

The Eucharist adds nothing to Jesus, but is entirely for our benefit. Christ present in the Eucharist is absolutely disinterested, for He is there entirely for us, for our welfare. Christ's Eucharistic presence on our altars and in our tabernacles, day and night, adds nothing to Him, but everything to us. He is the divine "prisoner of the tabernacle" in order to be able to be with us whenever we wish it, to be available to give us the consolation of His presence whenever we need it, desire it, and seek it, whenever we thirst for the face of God when all other consolations have run dry in this place of exile, this valley of tears. (*The Eucharist: Mystery of Presence, Sacrifice and Communion* by Lawrence Feingold, p. 14)

Jesus' total gift of self on the Cross, is then translated into His total gift of self in the Eucharist. He is ever-present to us, ready to receive us and our brokenness. He "endures all abuse, all irreverence, all sacrilege, with utmost meekness, for the sake of being perpetually present as divine Victim in our midst" (*ibid.*). Oh! What an incredible love!

As Jesus invites us to spend time with Him, we become like Him. As we spend time in His presence, we allow Him to mold our hearts and transform us into His love. As He is there entirely for us, He will help to mold us to be less about ourselves and more about love and service to others. As He endures all offenses against Himself, He trains us to bear the cost of love. Admittedly, God may not do this action in us all at once, but the more time we spend with Him, the more He will change us.

Again, I invite you to spend time with the God of the universe present in the Blessed Sacrament. Being with Him will change your life!