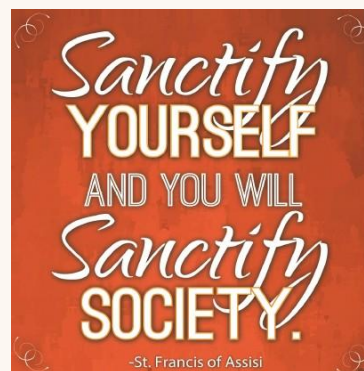




From the Desk of Father Peter

The Eucharist and Us

Several years ago, while a student in France, I heard this story. A community of nuns in Paris usually had a priest come in every evening at 4:00 PM to celebrate the Eucharist with them. One day the priest fell ill and asked the visiting African priest to help him out. The African priest showed up at the convent at 3:55 PM and rang the doorbell. Following the prevailing custom in Paris at the time, he was dressed in a casual not clerical outfit. A nun quickly answered the door thinking their priest had arrived. She was taken aback when she saw the African face. Without giving the visitor a chance to say why he had come, she quickly dismissed him, thinking he had come to ask for help. "sorry we cannot help you," said the nun. "we are having Mass now. Come back some other time." "Thank you, Sister!" said the priest as he turned and left. A few minutes later, the phones were ringing in the rectory. It was the nuns. They said they were still waiting for the priest. You can imagine their embarrassment when they learned he had come and they had sent him away.



Why did these nuns miss the celebration of the Eucharist they were waiting for? No, it was not because they were bad people. It was simply because the person who came did not look like the one they were expecting. The reality before them differed from their expectations, and they did not recognize the moment of their visitation.

Our challenge, as Catholics who do attend Mass regularly and who do believe that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, is to show the world that coming to Mass does make a difference in our lives. If we believe in Jesus then we cannot remain unchanged by the experience of the Eucharist. If this is not happening, we need to examine how much we are allowing the Eucharist to impact our lives, and the people we meet along the way.

At the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, Pope Francis, of blessed memory, said, "We need saints without cassocks, without veils. We need saints with jeans and tennis shoes. We need saints that go to the movies, that listen to music, that hang out with friends. We need saints who put God in the first place, ahead of succeeding in any career. We need saints who look for the time to pray every day and who know how to be in love with purity, chastity, and all good things. We need saints, saints of the 21st century with a spirituality appropriate to our new time. We need saints to live in the world, to sanctify the world and not to be afraid of living in the world by their presence in it. We need saints that love the Eucharist... We need saints that are open, sociable, normal, happy companions. We need saints who are in this world and who know how to enjoy the best in this world without being callous or mundane. We need saints."



Peace and May God bless us all.

Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu