

Spiritually Speaking

I Am the Bread of Life

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

This coming Sunday, the Catholic Church celebrates "Corpus Christi Sunday," the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. In the Gospel of John (13:1), we read: "Jesus, knowing that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father," called his disciples together to celebrate the memorial together. "While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many'" (Mk 14: 22).



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The Holy Eucharist is the parting gift of the Lord Jesus to us before His departure to the Father. Thus, Jesus becomes "the bread of life" (Jn 6:48). Before He left from this world, He instituted the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, as well as the Sacrament of Priesthood and asked His disciples to do this in His memory for eternity. We know it well from our Catechism classes: Jesus was born in David's town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem literally meant "the place of bread, place of meat." Food is one of the main elements of human lives, and we all work to satisfy our stomachs, but Jesus became bread for everyone, to satisfy the spiritual and physical hunger of everyone, instituting the Holy Eucharist as the memorial of His presence with us and His unconditional love towards us. Eucharistic miracles take place every day on every continent.

What are you hungering for? Jesus actually satisfies the physical hunger of humans before the spiritual one. The Eucharistic discourse of Jesus in the Gospel of John begins with the miracle of loaves. He fulfills the natural hunger of everyone before He begins the spiritual discourse. The temptation of the Lord in the desert begins with the tempter asking Jesus to change the stones into bread, since the Lord was hungry. In the last judgment scene, too, we read, "Come you that are blessed by my Father! I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink" (Mathew 25: 34-35). From these examples, we need to assume that Jesus addresses the basic needs of human life first. The Lord is always and every time present with us with His real presence. He is always available to satiate the hunger and thirst of human beings.

Do we approach Him for physical food or spiritual food? As human beings we cannot live on bread alone. We need more than food to live. I am reminded of the words of St Augustine: "It is no use feeding on Christ with our teeth if we are not feeding on him with our minds" - that is by faith. Let us remember that eating and drinking of the body and blood of Jesus are meant to be symbolic of our wanting to live by the word of God. In the Gospel of John, when He speaks about the vine and branches, and in the Eucharistic discourse, too, Jesus reminds us that without Him, we cannot live: "I tell you solemnly, if you do not eat of the flesh of Son of Man and drink His blood you will not have life in you. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him, anyone who eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:53-54). On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Jesus offers different kinds of "bread" to the faithful to gratify their many hungers. To people who followed him into the desert and who were starving, He offered ordinary bread and so satisfied their physical hunger. To the leper whose body was falling apart, He offered the only bread that mattered - the bread of physical healing. To the lonely woman at Jacob's well, He offered the bread of human kindness and acceptance. To sinners He offered the bread of forgiveness. To the rejects and outcasts, by mixing with them, He offered the bread of empathy and companionship. To the widow of Nain and Martha and Mary, who each had lost someone dear to her, He offered the bread of compassion. To the thief who died by His side, He offered the bread of repentance and reconciliation with God.

As Jesus has become bread and gratified human deprivation, it is our time to satisfy human needs of people around us. Is there anyone hungry around me? How do I approach such situations and become the bread someone needs? What bread are we looking for? Only Jesus can offer us that bread because "He is the bread of life."

A View from the Green

Over the Tee Cup

Ten ladies enjoyed very nice weather while competing in the playday held May 25 at the Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner. Virginia Grant took low gross of the field and low net of the field was split with Shirley Martin and Cindy Burrig. Least putts of the field went to Lorene Montgomery.

For flight B the low gross winner was Sarah

Rucker and Karen Hague-wood had low net.

Pat Dougherty took low gross for flight C and Kris Linder had low net. Jean Creswick and Betty Carter tied for least putts.

Long drive winner for flight A was Virginia Grant, Sarah Rucker for flight B and Pat Dougherty for flight C.

Shirley Martin got a chip-in on hole number one.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Papers please

To the editor, "Your papers please" is a cultural metaphor for life in a police state. In Nazi Germany the Ahnenpass (ancestor pass) was required to prove Aryan lineage of German blood; the "race science" of the third Reich. If we do not learn from history we are bound to repeat the horrors of the Holocaust. In 1933 the Nazi's passed the "Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service" requiring all public servants to be of Aryan descent. Nazi Racism used scientific empirical evidence to justify racial inferiority and racial superiority and concentration camps and gas chambers for Jews, Christians and dissenters was the result. "Critical Race Theory" now taught in our public schools and universities divides individuals into 'oppressed' and oppressor like Nazi "race science" and urges intolerance and violence as a method of social justice. Instead of the Jews of Nazi Germany, it is the white Christians who are now inherently evil.

The race science of the Nazi's is analogous to the science of 'Covid' immunizations. There is no empirical evidence that experimental Covid immunizations protect the public from infection more than natural herd immunity, nevertheless Covid passports are being instituted across the world. The EU Digital Covid-19 Passport has been approved by the European Union and will become law on July 1, 2021. For 12 months the passport will not be a precondition for travel, however governments and industry are encouraging

individual digital health apps. (Vaccine passports). "Your papers please" will soon be a metaphor for life in a one world police state.

The governors of Florida, Texas and Arizona have moved to stop businesses from requiring "papers" from customers, however Oregon Governor Brown continues to set the bar for Covid Passports. Divide and conquer using race science and phony Covid science fiction practitioners, like Anthony Fauci, will destroy America and what is left of our constitution. Choice used to be the mantra for 'my body, my choice.' Now you are free to choose to kill an unborn baby, but you will be offered no choice but to accept an unproven experimental Covid immunization that will require endless booster shots destroying your immune system.

Do not allow this Nazi style police state indoctrination to destroy our blood bought liberty and freedom. Our hope is in Jesus Christ and His blood has bought us courage and eternal life to stand against this tyranny. Fear not.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

Death Notices

James (Jamie) Lewis Kincaid - James (Jamie) Lewis Kincaid, Silverton, OR was born July 23, 1963 and died May 22, 2021 at the age of 57. Crown Memorial Center, Salem, OR is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be shared at <https://crowncremationburial.com/tribute/details/17249/Jamie-Kincaid/obituary.html#tribute-start>.

Qualls and Rollins promoted at BEO

The Bank of Eastern Oregon has announced that John Qualls and Ed Rollins were recently promoted to executive vice president. "I am pleased to announce that John Qualls and Ed Rollins have been promoted to executive vice president for Bank of Eastern Oregon," said Jeff Bailey, President and CEO.

Qualls started his career with Bank of Eastern Oregon in 2002. John has progressed through the lending ranks and was named Chief Lending Officer in 2012. John oversees all lenders in the bank and supervises the mortgage department. He is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School. John also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Oregon National Guard.

"John has been a leader, not only within our organization, but also within the national guard, serving two deployments during his time with the bank. We appreciate his service not only to our customers, but our country as well," added Bailey.

"It has been rewarding to be a part of the bank's growth over the past 19 years. We have a dedicated team of bankers that enjoy being a part of our local communities and serving the banking needs of our customers across the region," said Qualls.

John resides in Heppner with his wife Doashea. They have two adult children and one school age child.

Rollins started with Bank of Eastern Oregon

in 2004 as an ag and commercial loan officer. He was named Chief Credit Officer in 2012. He oversees loan policy and supervises a group of credit support personnel. He is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School and active in south Morrow County civic activities.

"Ed is very detail oriented and possesses a skill-set great for his role as CCO. He brought good experience to the bank and continues to add value to the management team," said Bailey.

"We have created a unique culture within our bank. I enjoy the hands-on approach to my job and the interaction with fellow employees as well as customers. Our expanding footprint of the bank continues to offer new challenges and opportunities," said Rollins.

Ed and his wife Tricia reside in Ione along with their two high school age sons.

"We are pleased to announce these promotions. Both gentlemen bring a commonsense approach to their roles within the bank. They are involved in the local communities and fully understand and appreciate Bank of Eastern Oregon's unique manner of providing banking services across the region. They are also active in regional and state trade associations, where they expand their knowledge and influence within the banking industry," concluded Bailey.

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