

Spiritually Speaking

Jesus calls us to become bread for others

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The Catholic Church will celebrate this Sunday as Corpus Christi Sunday – the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem meant the place of bread, place of meat. Jesus was born to become bread to quench the spiritual and physical hunger of everyone. Before leaving this world, He called His disciples and instituted the Holy Eucharist as a spiritual nourishment.

Is Jesus Really Present in the Holy Eucharist? Every day on every continent and at every Eucharistic celebration the real presence of the Lord takes place through a true Eucharistic miracle in which the Eucharistic bread and wine are truly made the Body and Blood of Our Lord.

A beautiful story comes from the life of St. Antony of Padua (1195-1231) regarding the real presence of the Lord: Saint Anthony engaged in conversation with a particularly stubborn heretic who refused to admit the mystery of transubstantiation, for he perceived no change in the sacramental species after the words of consecration. In vain, Anthony presented proofs drawn from both Scripture and Tradition.

When his efforts failed, he decided to alter his strategy. “You possess,” he told the man, “a mule. I will present a consecrated host to it. If it falls on its knee before the Blessed Sacrament, will you recognize the real Presence of the Savior under His Eucharistic appearance?” “Certainly,” responded the confident unbeliever. The two men agreed to meet again in the market square three days later then went their separate ways, each to prepare for the spiritual showdown. The heretic deprived his beast from all food for the three days. Our saint prepared by doubling his accustomed time in prayer. At the set day and time, Anthony appeared with a ciborium in his hands. The skeptic led the famished animal. A considerable crowd had gathered, curious to attend such a remarkable sight. With a smile on his lips, the unbeliever set a sack of oats before the animal. The hungry animal turned away from the oats and toward the Sacred Host held high by the Saint. With a graceful motion uncharacteristic of his breed, the beast of burden bowed low to the ground, giving due reverence to his Creator. Thus, the heretic and those gathered believed in the real presence of the Lord in the Eucharistic bread.

With the miracle of the loaves, Jesus 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, to the people on the right He says, “Come you that are blessed by my Father! I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink” (Matthew 25:34-35). These examples show Jesus addressing the basic needs of human life first.

Do we approach him for physical food or spiritual food? As human beings we cannot live on bread alone. 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. 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, Jesus speaks about the vine and branches and 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).

To starving people who followed Jesus into the desert He offered ordinary bread, satisfying their physical hunger. To the leper He offered 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 He offered the bread of compassion. To the thief who died by His side, He offered the bread of repentance and reconciliation with God.

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 for someone in need? What bread are we looking for? Only Jesus can offer us that bread, because “He is the Bread of life.”

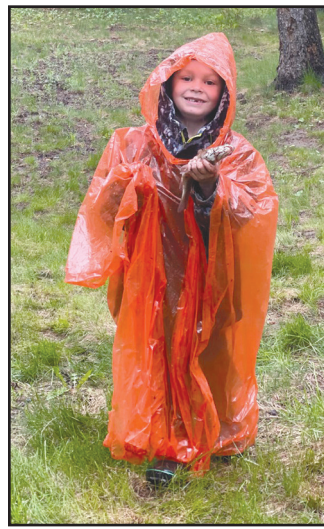


Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Fishing derby held at Cutsforth Park



Kids from 0 to 14 years old participated in the annual fishing derby held at Cutsforth Park, despite the wet weather. -Contributed photos.



Morrow County Parks held its annual Youth Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at the Cutsforth Park pond. The pond was stocked with fish from the Irrigon Fish Hatchery courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. There were 45 participants along with family, friends and relatives who braved the dreary, rainy weather to land some great fish.

Hot dogs, chili, hot chocolate and coffee were provided and prepared by the Heppner Elks Lodge #358 members. Wildhorse Resort and Casino, along with the Glen Ward family, contributed to the event to help ensure each participant received a lure, bobber and a small bucket of goodies.

The late Glen Ward was a staple to this annual event and could always be found at the table with his custom board and ruler for measuring the fish as the kids

brought them up. Glen enjoyed seeing the delight and smiles as the kids would bring him the fish, although there were always a couple that were squeamish as the fish flopped around out of the water. Glen would quickly reassure the kids the fish would not hurt them and often would see a child carry or at least touch the fish. For Glen this was pure enjoyment as he believed that teaching the youth about the outdoors and all that it had offer was one of best things to teach a child. In honor of the years of supporting this event it was announced that all future Youth Fishing Derby’s would be in his honor and now be known as the Glen Ward Memorial Youth Fishing Derby.

Keeping in tradition with Glen, there were volunteers that could be seen helping youth at the pond as they supplied fishing

equipment to those in need and assisted at the ponds edge. There were a dozen youth in 0-5 age group who landed a total of three fish with an average length of 14-½ inches. The largest fish in this group was 19-½ inches long and caught by Griff Mullins.

Twenty-two fish were landed by the 6-10 age group with average length being 13 inches. This group’s largest fish was reeled in by Ella Mullins and measured 15 inches in length. The 11-14 age group had a great day catching 25 fish in total with the average fish length of 13-¼ inches in length.

Hannah Brannon was the first to turn in a big fish at 22-¾” weighing 4 lbs. 6 oz. with rumors that it almost got away. Hailey McDaniel, at the end of the derby, reeled in a 23 ½” fish weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. bring-

ing in not only the largest for the group but the best catch of the day.

The smallest fish of the day was another competition that several came close to getting but the smallest legal fish of the day went to Duke Baker with a fish measuring 1/16 inches and weighing 3 oz. Trophies were given the largest fish in each age group and to the smallest legal fish of the day.

Morrow County Parks appreciate all who help make this event possible and those who braved the weather and participated in the event. “It was great to see everyone once again after the two-year break. Mark your calendars for June 2023 as the Glen Ward Memorial Youth Fishing Derby will take place for all to enjoy and make memories,” stated a parks spokesperson.



Don Bennett
 1972 Charter Member of the Heppner Water Control Board, recently retired from the board.
 Thank you, Don, for your 50 years of service
Heppner Water Control Board



ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

Get \$50 Account Credit For Every Referral

Refer A Friend and Get Rewarded!

gorge.net High Speed Fiber Internet to the home Heppner & Ione Visit gorge.net or call 541-436-0223

WWW.HEPPNER.NET
 SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 SEND US PHOTOS
 START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION

the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES



Ione Community Church
 Ione, Oregon

SUMMER WORSHIP

Now! 10:00 am through Labor Day
 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

You AND your friend get \$50 when they mention your referral when they sign up for new service with Gorge Networks. We'll contact you once your friend has signed up for new service to let you know your credit is coming. It's as easy as that. *Referral terms and conditions: Must be a new customer. There is no cash out under this program. Your earned credit is applied to your account. Because the referral must be mentioned at the time of sign-up, the referrer cannot ask for the credit to be applied at a later date. The new account holder under this arrangement will get a \$50 credit after paying the full one month rate for the first month (i.e. the \$50 credit will be applied to your second month of service). The first invoice for the new subscriber's service must be paid in full before the credit can be issued to the referrer.