**The Eucharist: Perfect Celebration with Mother Mary**

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In the Eucharist, we are called to do the will of God. In the Eucharist, we learn to do the will of God and also in it that the mystery of humanity truly becomes clear.

* We learn from Mary the Mother of God who happens to be the only one who knows how to do the will of God better than any other human being. She also knows more than anyone the mystery of creation. She is the vessel through which the incarnation of Christ took flesh.
* CCC 359; “In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.”
* In the Eucharist, we listen to Him who invites us. In it we hear the voice of Him inviting us thus: “Just follow Me, be with Me, come with Me, walk with Me, care with Me, love with Me and forgive with Me.”
* We learn from the life of saints like Blessed Carlo Acutis and St Dominic Savio. They both had the youth spirituality that is simple and can be emulated. They followed in simplicity what the Bible teaches about following and accepting the kingdom of God simply.
* The guiding principle for them; “Say your prayers devoutly, perform all your duties exactly, be cheerful and give cheerfully.”
* God’s will for us is the plan for us to be with Him in His Kingdom.

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7; the young Church community continues to grow and bear testimonies of Christ in the world.

* Like every human setup, there will always be an oversight which if not quickly corrected can lead to crisis. The community has been established by Christ for unity and that is why people from every work and place found it convenient to be a part of it.
* However, everyone should feel part by the way he/she is cared for and made welcome. In this community, the Hellenists did not feel their widows well treated by the group and they complained. The Hellenists are the Greek-speaking Jews who have come back home to Jerusalem to settle. This made the apostles to look again at the essence of their apostolate compared with what they are doing now.
* “It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
* The Church flourishes when it prays, teaches and does charity. “The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.”

2nd Reading: 1Peter 2:4-9; on the strength of the growth of the Church, St Peter admonishes people to come to the Lord. Christ is the saving power of God, the redeeming strength of humanity.

* “Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
* In the Church, we are called to believe in the Lord that does not put us to shame but helps us overcome our shameful sins with forgiveness if we come to Him.
* In the Church, we have become special to the Lord who has taken us out of misery of sin to a mystery of gaiety and royalty. “…and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame. …You are ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises’ of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”

Gospel: John 14:1-12; the Church lives today in the fulfilment of the assurance of Jesus Christ in the Gospel.

* “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in Me.”
* Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life is also the one who has gone to prepare a place for us in the kingdom of His Father. This is what makes martyrdom desirable in spite of its pains. It is not easy to die, but if you know it is for a higher goal, then the pain is worth enduring.
* Even though the Church is doing great works for God and for the Kingdom of God, yet the world continues to persecute her.

The strength of the Church is the Eucharist. The celebration should be in communion. We should do our best to prepare ourselves to receive it.

* Mary, the Mother of God, we celebrate. She was with the Church at the beginning. She is with the Church now. She will be with the Church forever. Amen.