**The Eucharist: Sanctifies Us**

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The Eucharist is a sacrament for sanctification. In it we celebrate the Church as a people of God; we celebrate a thanksgiving to God; we bring our petitions and sacrifices before God; we celebrate a meal and many more.

* It is therefore very important that everyone who participates in this celebration, has something to contribute within his/her own capacity.
* We are made to appreciate the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. As we celebrate Mother’s Day during the season of Easter and in May, we remember the important role that women play in the preparation of meal that nourishes the family.
  + Genesis 18: Sarah was blessed by the three men that she prepared meal for at the prompting of Abraham. “And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.’”
  + 1Kings 17:7-24: the son of the widow of Zarephath was restored to life because she played host to Elijah the prophet.
  + Luke 8:2-3; certain women minister to Jesus with their needs because of the great things that the Lord has done for them.
  + Mary the Mother of God, provided the bodily nourishment to Jesus who gave her the Eucharist to nourish her soul.
* In the gathering of the people of God, there is always nourishment of body and soul. We thank God for the role of women in the Eucharistic life of the Church.

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; persecution opened up the message of Christ to more people than the Jews. The region in which Philip went to preach was where there were many none Jews living among the Jews.

* The people paid attention to Philip and the Holy Spirit manifested among them.
* “For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was great joy in that city.”
* The presence of the Spirit of God always bring joy to the people. God is joy and He wants us to share it with people.
* When we reverently pay attention to the Eucharist, which is the presence of God in our midst, there will be manifestations. It will bring joy and it will open the way for the grace of God to flow.
* As the people where baptized, the apostles came to confirm them and the people received the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading: 1Peter 3:15-18; Peter made the people know that they will be called to account for the gift of God that they receive. Nobody is given a gift for nothing. It must be for a purpose and that must be accounted for one day.

* What we do in the name of God to help people and how we witness to the gift we have matters. We account for what we get through how we give and joyfully witness.
* Our giving account is to be gentle and loving. Only in that can we convince people about the reality of the love of God.
* Our message always is to let people know that Christ suffered so sinners can gain redemption. Also, that we are beneficiaries of the redeeming grace of God.

Gospel; John 14:15-21; Jesus called us to keep His commandments. This is the only way by which we can prove that we love Him

* The presence of Jesus with His Church is in the working of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
* Keeping the commandment of God is very important and it helps us.
* “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows Him. But you know Him, because He remains with you, and will be in you.”
* We need to pray that God gives us the grace always to love Him and His Word.