

***The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost (Latin Mass)
November 14, 2021
Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Reflection #44)***

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. . . For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” (John 6:53, 55)

In the Prologue of his book (p. 3), *Calvary and the Mass*, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote these lines: “There are certain things in life which are too beautiful to be forgotten, such as the love of a mother. Hence we treasure her picture.” Having lost my own mother this summer, I find these words touching. Yet, Archbishop Sheen uses this example to remind us of how we should view the most beautiful gift of love that He gave to each of us and all of humanity - Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus.

Jesus is the greatest gift, the most sublime blessing God has bestowed upon humanity. As Catholics, we are asked to treasure the words and deeds of Jesus. We honor God in the way these words and actions of Jesus, either through the recorded words found in the Gospels or the unspoken words present in our Tradition, have become incorporated into our own daily lives. However, this still is not enough. Jesus did not leave us a book. Please, let me say this again. As much as we venerate Sacred Scripture, Jesus was not recorded saying: “Remember the words I wrote to you.” No, Jesus is only known to have written something only once - when He bent down to write something on the ground as he beheld the woman who was caught in the act of adultery. No, Jesus did not leave us a book. He gave all of us something greater. He gave us Himself present in the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist.

My dear people, over these next few nights you will have the opportunity to attend a mission specifically focused upon Our Lord Jesus Christ made present Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist. Each night you will have an opportunity to sit in the Eucharistic presence of Jesus as a different priest explains one aspect of our teaching concerning this most Blessed Sacrament of Love. And on the last night of the mission, Saturday night, you will be able to listen as the words of Jesus, the only time when He told us “Remember what I am saying, remember what I am doing.” These words, prayed each time a priest offers the Sacrifice of the Mass, “This is my Body, do this (what is ‘this’ - the Mass) in remembrance of Me.”