

Saint John Vianney: Zeal for souls



Feast Day: Aug. 4

Introductory Prayer: Lord Jesus, today I renew my faith in your true presence in the Eucharist. I believe you come down from heaven to be present in the host at every Mass and remain with me in the Tabernacle. You are the source of my hope. I long to be more united to you through this gift of yourself. Through the intercession of Saint John Vianney, may we increase in faith, hope, and love.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #1: (www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6y3gJrqUz8)

Mark 14:12-16,22-26 The Words of Institution

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and 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. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQRWhLKic_A)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Daniel Ray, LC for reflections):

1. *The Power of Love:* As Jesus prepared to accept the cross, he showed the depth of his true love for humanity by giving himself. He promised to be with us until the end of time, and it was no empty promise. Christ, true God and true man, transformed bread and wine into his Body and Blood and gave the apostles and their successors the power to make Christ present in the Eucharist. Jesus' love wasn't just a passing love. His love makes itself present every day in the Eucharist. Lord, help me to grasp and be grateful for the depth of love you showed to us by giving us your Body and Blood as food.

- a) We cannot fathom the depth of Christ's love for us. He wants us to receive Him as often as we can. What is it that holds us back from receiving Him more often?
- b) What can we do to overcome our "blah" attitude?

2. *It all Started with Yes:* Sometimes it is easy to take words for granted. How many times do we hear the words "yes" and "no," but take no notice? Imagine if God had decided to not become man and let us die in our sins instead. Imagine too if Mary had said "No". The Eucharist begins with God's "YES" to save mankind from his sin. Through his sacrifice, Jesus offers us the supreme gift of love: his own body and blood. But like any story of love, Jesus offers us his love and asks for our love in return. Our "yes" is what it takes to bring to completion God's love in us. St. John Vianney said "yes" to God in his call to the priesthood, and especially in his service to the sacramental life of the Church.

- a) God gives each of us a mission in life. How can I say yes to God? How can I continue to say yes to him daily?
- b) Do you love God or the world? St. John makes it clear that a "yes" to God, necessarily means a "no" to the world. There is no fence straddling – God or the world. Love one, hate the other. How do we live that out?

3. *The Heavenly Banquet Awaits Us:* Christ says that he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the day he drinks it anew in the Kingdom of Heaven. What a privilege it will be to participate in this banquet of heaven. The Eucharist and Mass are a foretaste of that noble banquet. Let us resolve to inebriate ourselves with Christ's love given us through the Eucharist. "If only you knew the gift being offered to you" (Cf. John 4:10).

- a) St. John Vianney understood the value of the Eucharist in forming the hearts and minds of his flock. How can we commit to the Eucharist both personally and as a parish to let Christ renew our hearts and minds?

Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Commit to weekly Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.
- Commit to going to Confession at least once this month.
- Make a spiritual communion with the Lord daily.

Closing Prayer: One decade of Scripture Rosary: the fourth Sorrowful Mystery, the Carrying of the Cross.

Verses to be recited before each Hail Mary:

1. "If anyone wishes to come after Me let him deny himself." (Luke 9:23)
2. "And take up his cross daily, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23)
3. And bearing the cross for Himself, He went forth to the place called "The Skull." (John 19:17)
4. And they laid hold of a certain Simon of Cyrene, and upon him they laid the cross to bear it after Jesus. (Luke 23:26)
5. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me." (Matt. 11:29)
6. "For I am meek, and humble of heart." (Matt. 11:29)
7. "And you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light." (Matt. 11:29-30)
8. Now there was following Him a great crowd of people, and of women, who were bewailing and lamenting Him. (Luke 23:27)
9. Jesus, turning to them, said, "Do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:28)
10. "For if in the case of the green wood they do these things, what is to happen in the case of the dry?"

(Luke 23:31) (Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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