

Father Martin's Pen

January 27, 2019

Counterpoint

Johann Sebastian Bach is famous for his contrapuntal style of music.

In general for every music note in the treble or melody line, there is a contrasting music note in the base line hence the word contrapuntal. So then his music seems to have two separate lines that are in harmony with each other.

In regard to our faith, it is a good exercise to ask ourselves, what would life be without it? We fail to value what we have until we no longer have it.

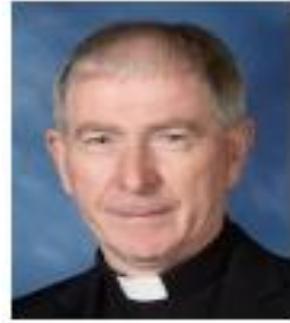
It is like "nobody knows what I do until I no longer do it," or the more familiar phrase reads "you never miss the water until the well runs dry."

Let us take for example, a world with no Eucharist/ Mass. How would our lives be different?

No Eucharist/Mass would mean no reason to gather on a Sunday, no churches, no Mass books, no hymn books, no liturgy and no memory of the Last Supper.

No Eucharist also means no call for unity among people, no call to love each other, no forgiveness, no mercy, no reason to care for the sick, no hospitals, no marriage, no children, no ...

One of the scandals of Christianity is the amount of discord that is centered on the Eucharist. Maybe it is because the Eucharist is mystery.



As humans we want to describe it, set our boundaries to it, place conditions on it etc.

In the earliest Christian churches there was a variety of opinion about frequency of celebration and reception, how Christ present is and who is approved to take it.

While the Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke give us the Last Supper scene, John places the emphasis on another scene, the washing of the feet.

In the context of in-fighting among his disciples, Jesus doesn't give a sermon, he sets an example.

The Eucharist of its nature calls us beyond a stance of who is right or wrong. It demands a commitment of belonging together as members of the Kingdom.

So then let us move away from a 'staked out turf' position. Political correctness and liturgical purity may seem important, but ultimately the Lord asks us roll up our sleeves and wash each other's feet.

We can't risk the loss of the Eucharist.

Father Martin

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