

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had bypass surgery. He awakened to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic hospital.

As he was recovering, a nun asked how he was going to pay the bill.

He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank."

The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?"

He said, "Just a spinster sister, who is a nun."

The nun, slightly perturbed, said, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Then send the bill to my brother-in-law!"

Dear Friends,

We all eat healthy food to live healthily and longer. There are people who expend a lot of time and energy trying to prolong their life. Why do you think people want to live for a long time? Do you think it would be a good thing to live forever?

In Today's Gospel, we see the crowds wondering about how Jesus could say that he had come down from heaven because they knew Jesus to be the son of Joseph. In this Gospel, some have difficulty with Jesus' teaching that he is the living bread sent from God. We see a theme of unbelief, yet most did not understand.

We all want to have eternal life. Don't we? Jesus says that whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life. It is a true food. The food that people received, although divinely provided did not spare the people from death. To consume something provided by God is not enough to attain eternal life. More is needed. Life eternal calls for consuming God and believing in the presence in our life.

Jesus talks about the gift of eternal life in today's Gospel. By this, he didn't mean that we would live forever in our physical presence. Jesus is telling us about the special gift he gives us in the Eucharist. In the miracle of the Eucharist, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. When we share in the Eucharist, Jesus makes himself one with us. This is what eternal life means, being with God and Jesus forever. But even today people find the teaching of the Eucharist as food for eternal life very difficult.

By the grace of grace and wisdom of God, he opens the veil occasionally to give us a glimpse of the truth of the Eucharist in Eucharistic miracles.

This event happened in India in the state of Nagaland this year. Around two months before the miracle was seen, a Catholic along with her Baptist friend visited the Church of

Mount Carmel for Sunday Mass. While Holy Communion was being distributed, the Baptist woman received the Holy Eucharist in her hand but did not consume it. Only baptized practicing Catholics are permitted to receive Holy Communion. After Holy Mass, the Baptist woman carried Holy Communion to her home. However, she began to feel guilty of desecration and had a restless night. The next day, as soon as it was dawn, she went to her Catholic friend's home and explained the entire situation. Her Catholic friend tried contacting the parish priest online, but couldn't reach him; so, she called the Carmelite Sister in charge and the Sacred Host was returned to the church. The Baptist lady was sorrowful and apologized. At the Church of Mount Carmel, Fr. Johnson took the consecrated Host, broke it into pieces, kept it inside a cruet filled with holy water and placed it inside the tabernacle to dissolve. This is the general custom of the Church. The priest can either consume the Host or reverentially dissolve it in water and pour the water into the earth or sacrarium. About two days later, Fr Johnson checked the Host. To his amazement and shock, the Host remained the same. He then placed it back into the tabernacle. About three days later the Host still retained its original shape. He did this for about a month or two. On Palm Sunday, he received an urgent sick call and remembered the Sacred Host that wouldn't dissolve. He went to check on the Host which to his surprise had turned into a reddish black blob. He tried to break the layer with his finger. Since it was a hard substance, he pressed with force. When he applied force, the layer broke, and water and fresh blood started oozing out. He informed other priests about the incident and the Host was kept for public viewing. The Bishop sent the species for a scientific investigation and examination.

So today I want you to say a little prayer after you receive Communion, maybe it should be to help our unbelief or maybe we should ask for grace to strengthen our faith.

What will we ask of Jesus today in the true presence of the Eucharist?