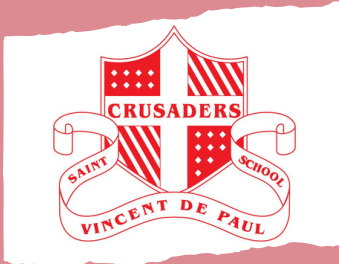


From Fr. Hilton



Pastor of SVdP

Dear Saint Vincent de Paul Parents,

I had great fun making a fool of myself at our all-school Mass a couple of Thursdays ago. In front of your children, before the main altar and robed in full Mass vestments I pretended to order a McDonald's Big Mac Meal Deal on my knees, with folded hands pointed to Heaven. The children laughed uproariously at the foolishness of the idea – just imagine walking up to McDonald's counter and falling on one's knees in order to order a burger!

The point of my foolishness? While it makes no sense to order fast food while on one's knees, it does make great sense to assume this noble posture of prayer while receiving the Body of Christ at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. McDonald's French fries are not a food worthy of receiving on one's knees but the Body of our Savior Jesus Christ is a True Food most definitely worthy of receiving with such a gesture of respect and humility.

Why did I want to teach your children this lesson? Well, there are two approved ways of receiving Holy Communion: in the hand and on the tongue. We've placed much emphasis on the first option. The second? Not so much. I want your child to experience receiving their Lord and Savior on their knees for a time so they can talk about it in class and see the amazing Gift of Jesus in the Eucharist with new eyes.

Why now? On June 11th, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) the Catholic Church begins the Year of Eucharistic Revival for Parishes. The purpose of this Year is to deepen our love of and appreciation for the priceless gift of Jesus Christ received in the Holy Mass. Throughout the coming year I'll be emphasizing the Holy Eucharist as the greatest gift our Lord Jesus can possibly give to us in this life, the gift of Himself that carries with it the promise of eternal life.

As we begin our Year of Eucharistic Revival and here's two ways you can participate:

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 11th, we have planned a beautiful outdoor procession with the Blessed Sacrament and I'd love for you and your children to participate. Immediately following the 9:30 am Mass we'll walk in procession to three outdoor altars close to the church. At each altar we'll pause for a short prayer and receive a special blessing from our Eucharistic Lord Jesus. If your children have just received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, I invite them to wear their special dresses and suits and take a place of honor in the procession next to the Blessed Sacrament.

Last Sunday we held our first Family Holy Hour and we had a wonderful crowd of parents and kids of all ages followed by pizza. This is a great opportunity to bring your children to church and to pray with them and then gather with other families for a time of fellowship and fun. We have Family Holy Hours scheduled for three Sunday evenings this summer: June 18th, July 16th and August 13th. We begin at 5:00 in the church and have pizza in the upper playground at 5:30.

God's blessings upon your family!