



## ***20<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME*** ***YEAR B – August 19, 2018***

Some time ago, a college student named Marie, wrote an interesting and thought provoking article called, "I bring Jesus to John." Marie is a Eucharist minister in her parish. Each Sunday she attends the 10:30 Mass and after Mass, she takes the Eucharist to an elderly man named John. He lives alone.

Describing John, Marie writes, "His rocking chair creaks as he sways back and forth beside his living room window. His hearing is bad, his eyesight is poor, and a heart attack has slowed his movements. He's 88 years old and his faith is strong and solid as a rock.

Each Sunday John waits eagerly for someone. That someone is Jesus - and Marie has the privilege of bringing Jesus to John in the Eucharist. While Marie attends the 10:30 Mass, John watches the same Mass on television. So, when Marie arrives with the Eucharist, John feels like a part of that Mass too.

After taking off her coat, Marie sits down beside John. Then she rereads the Sunday gospel, just in case John's poor hearing caused him to miss any of it on television. Marie ends by reviewing the homily with John and is always amazed at his insights.

Next comes the moment John has been waiting for all week. Marie begins by praying with John, the Lord's Prayer. Then she holds up the body of Christ for John to see and says, "This is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper." John answers in a soft but firm voice, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

Marie then gives John communion. After a few moments of silence, Marie opens a book and prays, God our Father, may the body of Christ which our brother John has just received bring him lasting health in mind and body. Help him now to be at peace."

Marie then concludes with a prayer that has become John's favorite. She prays, "Lord, holy Father, free your servant John from the pain of his sickness and restore him to health, strengthen him by your power, protect him and raise him to new life on his last day." After this prayer, Marie and John chat together for a while. Then she gives him a hug, and they promise to pray for each other until they meet again next week.


It is clear what John believes about the Eucharist. He derives much comfort and strength from his meeting with Jesus every week.

We have a chance to experience these same things every time we attend Mass. We don't have to wait until we're 88 years old. Our parish motto is "We are a stewardship parish and a Eucharist centered people" That means – We are a Christ centered people. The Eucharist is Christ.

**What does the Eucharist mean to you?**

**The Eucharistic Assembly**

- comes from Greek word *synaxis*, *syni* meaning "together" and *axis* meaning "the central point around which something turns"
- recalls that the life of early Christians was centered around the Eucharist
- Entire liturgical year is built around Sunday, because it was the day on which Christ rose from the dead



© 2012 Saint Mary's Parish  
www.stmarys.org