

## Celebrating Life in Communion with Christ

*"The Food of the Children"*



In one of the great insults of all time, Jesus says to the Canaanite woman who is seeking help, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." If you want to know why Jesus insulted this woman, you will have to read the scholars. My point is to look at what Jesus is referring to when he speaks about the food of the children.

Jesus is not simply trying to limit his mission to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" when he is speaking to the Canaanite woman. By referring to his ministry as food for the children, Jesus is challenging us to realize what is being given to those who believe in Him. And therein lies one of the central problems for Christians and especially for Catholics today: we do not recognize Jesus in our lives!

Too many preachers preach about having a relationship with Jesus. Too many preachers preach about being saved by Jesus. Most people have no idea what this means. Many young people stop coming to church because they do not understand what a relationship with Jesus is. Other people float from church to church until they find some preacher they think they can understand. People want a simple message that will help them on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, really believing in Jesus is not as simple as preachers and even the Gospel make it sound. That is why there are so many half-hearted Christians and Catholics.

Catholics do not *have* faith; we *practice* our faith. Stewardship is our daily response to God's love. Jesus and His teachings are the daily food we use to strengthen our faith and to grow in our understanding of God's love. People who do not eat daily are malnourished and are not healthy. People who do not pray daily, who do not read the Bible regularly or who do not receive Communion are also malnourished. I have found that many Catholics do not appreciate the treasure we have in the Bible, in the Church's teachings, and, most importantly, in the Eucharist. Many people do not receive Holy Communion regularly and they do not miss it! Would you not miss not eating all day long? Why let your soul starve? I already know the answer: because we do not comprehend the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. That is obvious by the way some people receive Communion-grabbing for it, not saying 'Amen', not opening their hands and their hearts to the King of kings. There are also those who refuse to change their lives and so they can't receive Communion or they won't marry in the Church.

We have been invited as God's children to sit at the Lord's table and participate in a marvelous banquet. The Scripture passages, the homilies, the music, these are all courses that help nourish our souls. But the entrée is Jesus Christ-His Body broken for us and His Blood shed for our sins. Only a dog would refuse such an invitation.

Rejoice in Christ,

*Fr. Nick*

## Celebrando la Vida en Comuni3n con Cristo

*"El Pan de los Hijos"*

En uno de los insultos m1s grandes de todo tiempo, Jes1s le dice a la mujer Cananea que est1 buscando ayuda, "No est1 bien quitarles el pan a los hijos para ech1rselo a los perritos." Si usted desea saber porqu1 Jes1s insult3 a esta mujer, usted tendr1 que leer a los eruditos. Mi punto es que miren a lo que Jes1s se est1 refiriendo a cuando 3l habla sobre el pan de los hijos.

Jes1s no est1 simplemente intentando limitar su misi3n a las "ovejas perdidas de la casa de Israel" cuando 3l le est1 hablando a la mujer Cananea. Al referir sobre su ministerio como pan para los hijos, Jes1s nos est1 desafiando a ver qu1 es lo que se le est1 dando a los que crean en 3l y en esto est1 una de los problemas centrales para los Cristianos y especialmente para los Cat3licos hoy: 3no reconocemos a Jes1s en nuestras vidas!

Demasiado predicadores predicar acerca de tener una relaci3n con Jes1s. Demasiado predicadores predicar sobre ser salvado por Jes1s. La mayor1a de la gente no tiene ninguna idea qu1 significa esto. Muchos j3venes dejan de venir a la iglesia porque no entienden que significa una relaci3n con Jes1s. Otra gente se pasa de iglesia en iglesia hasta que encuentran a un predicador que ellos piensa que pueden entender. La gente desea un mensaje simple que le ayudar1 diariamente. Desafortunadamente, realmente creer en Jes1s no es tan simple como los predicadores e incluso el Evangelio lo hacen pensar. Es por eso que hay tantos Cristianos y Cat3licos sin 1nimo.

Los cat3licos no *tienen* fe; *practicamos* nuestra fe. La Mayordom1a es nuestra respuesta diaria al amor de Dios. Jes1s y sus ense1anzas es el pan diario que utilizamos para ser m1s fuerte nuestra fe y crecer en nuestra comprensi3n del amor de Dios. Gente qui1nes no comen diariamente son mal alimentados y no son saludables. Gente qui1nes no oran diariamente, que no leen la Biblia regularmente o que no reciben la Comuni3n son tambi1n mal alimentados. He encontrado que muchos Cat3licos no aprecian el tesoro que tenemos en la Biblia, en las ense1anzas de la Iglesia, y, m1s importantemente, en la Eucarist1a. 3Mucha gente no reciben la Sagrada Comuni3n regularmente y 3no les hace falta! 3No le har1a falta el no comer todo el d1a? 3Por qu1 deja que su alma muera de hambre? Ya s3 la respuesta: porque no comprendemos la presencia verdadera de Cristo en la Eucarist1a. Eso es obvio por la manera que alguna gente recibe la Comuni3n-la agarran, no dicen 'Amen', no abren las manos y sus corazones al Rey de los reyes. Hay tambi1n los que rechazan cambiar sus vidas y pues no pueden recibir la Comuni3n o no se casan en la Iglesia.

Hemos sido invitados como los hijos de Dios a sentarnos en la Mesa del Se1or y a participar en un banquete maravilloso. Las Escrituras, las homilias, la m1sica, 3stos son todos cursos que ayudan a alimentar nuestras almas. Pero el alimento principal es Jesucristo-Su cuerpo partido para nosotros y su sangre derramada por nuestros pecados. Solamente un perrito rechazar1a tal invitaci3n.



Regoc1jense en Cristo,

*Padre Nicol1s*