

Meditation 6

John 17:20-26

“FATHER, I DESIRE . . .”

“I pray not only for these but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me. **May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.** I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognize that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you have loved me. **Father, I desire** that they also, whom you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see my glory which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Upright One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.”

- 1) “Father, I desire. . .” This is Jesus’ last will and testament. This is what He wanted and wants to leave to all of us...His desire and the realization of that desire! Prayerfully, carefully and attentively reread this beautiful passage, placing yourself in that scene with all of its tensions, confusion and fear.
- 2) “. . . The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.”
“. . . That they may be one . . .” That is Jesus’ greatest desire, as we meditated on in the first point of this meditation. To bring that about, HE created the Eucharist! There is no better way to realize and fulfill His desire than in and through the Eucharist. Our bishops want to help us realize, to think about, to be more proactive about that, even more in our times. They have called for a “National Eucharistic Revival” (cfr. www.usccb.com). We want to be obedient, docile, and good disciples of Christ and the bishops in working towards being more amazed and more in love of the Eucharist, fount and source of the only real unity this side of Heaven!

- 3) “So that the world may believe. . . (John 17:21). We have our marching orders, after this week. We have spent many hours meditating on, studying on, pondering on, talking on, the SACRAMENTS! Be on fire with love of these incredible gifts, called the sacraments. After all, isn’t that another desire of His, to be on fire and set the world on fire? “. . . I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing...!” (Lk 12:49). Be “Apostles of the Eucharist” and of the other sacraments! Be enamored with the Eucharist!

A Quote to meditate on:

“To contemplate the face of Christ and to contemplate it with Mary, is the program which I have set before the Church at the dawn of the third millennium, summoning her to put out into the deep on the sea of history with the enthusiasm of the new evangelization. To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize Him wherever He manifests Himself, in His many forms of presence, but above all in the living Sacrament of His body and blood . . .” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, St. Pope John Paul II, #6).

Possible resolutions: (Especially during this time of the National Eucharistic Revival, from the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2022 to Pentecost, 2025.)

- 1) Make the decision to go to Mass another day during the week.
- 2) Decide to do a Holy Hour one time during your week or add another one, if you are already doing one.
- 3) Plan to study more about the Eucharist, either in and through the Catechism and/or documents of the Church on the Eucharist.
- 4) Talk with someone today about your love of the Eucharist.

