

# Fr. Simon Sez

This past week I attended our diocese June Priest Retreat at Abbey of the Hills. It was a joy to have Fr. Marty Schaefer from the Diocese of Winona directing the retreat. He is the Vice Rector and Dean of Formation at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, MN. (Our diocese sends some college seminarians there.) He was in my priest support group about fifteen years ago.

I give thanks to God the Father that he spent one day focused on the spiritual fatherhood of priests, at times analogous to biological fatherhood. The timing of this was wonderful too since this Sunday we celebrate Father's Day. I was expecting to have difficulty in my homily this weekend to relate Father's Day to also celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*). It turns out to be quit straight forward.

It was surprising to me to find out that in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition Jesus was not only seen as the Son of the Father, but also, being the new Adam who gives new life to the humanity He redeems by giving us His Body & Blood, means He secondarily is "Father Christ" as prayed to in the Eastern Churches. (This, of course, reaffirms that we can and should call Roman Catholic priests "father.")

We have to be careful as to how we understand Jesus and priests as fathers. Jesus warned in the Gospel of Matthew 23:9 (RSV): "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven." Obviously, this is not to be taken literally, as if no one on earth can be called "father." Only in as much as we priests are extensions of "Father Christ" and God the Father, can we be called "father."

This same point applies to biological fathers this Father's Day who are also called to be spiritual fathers. We celebrate their fatherhood, to the extent that they are extensions of God the Father in giving life, protecting life, and providing for their children's natural and supernatural lives as God the Father provides for His children through them.

On Father's Day we celebrate our father's helping their children through example, affirmation and affection realize their true identity, human and religious rights, and right to life; ability to receive unconditional love, and the goal of heaven by fostering their supernatural lives.

Happy Father's Day!

## **EVELYN MCGOUGH FUNERAL SERVICE NOTICE**

Evelyn McGough of Gettysburg passed away June 17, 2022, at Avera Oahe Manor. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am Friday, June 24, 2022, at Sacred Heart Church, Gettysburg. Burial will follow the weekend after the funeral. A wake service and rosary will be prayed 7:00 pm Thursday, June 23, 2022, at Sacred Heart Church, Gettysburg with visitation 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Luce Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements ([www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)).

## Blessed and Given: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ



Genesis 14:18–20

Psalms 110:1–4

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Luke 9:11–17

At the dawn of salvation history, God revealed our future in figures. That's what's going on in today's First Reading: a priest-king comes from Jerusalem (see Psalm 76:3), offering bread and wine to celebrate the victory of God's beloved servant, Abram, over his foes.

By his offering, Melchizedek bestows God's blessings on Abram. He is showing us, too, how one day we will receive God's blessings and in turn "bless God"—how we will give thanks to Him for delivering us from our enemies, sin and death.

As Paul recalls in today's Epistle, Jesus transformed the sign of bread and wine, making it a sign of His body and blood, through which God bestows upon us the blessings of His "new covenant."

Jesus is "the priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek," that God, in today's Psalm, swears will rule from Zion, the new Jerusalem (see Hebrews 6:20–7:3).

By the miracle of loaves and fishes, Jesus in today's Gospel, again prefigures the blessings of the Eucharist.

Notice that He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the Twelve. You find the precise order and words in the Last Supper (see Luke 22:19) and in His celebration of the Eucharist on the first Easter night (see Luke 24:30).

The Eucharist fulfills the offering of Melchizedek. It is the daily miracle of the heavenly high priesthood of Jesus.

It is a priesthood He conferred upon the Apostles in ordering them to feed the crowd, in filling exactly twelve baskets with leftover bread—in commanding them on the night He was handed over: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Through His priests He still feeds us in "the deserted place" of our earthly exile.

And by this sign He pledges to us a glory yet to come. For as often as we share in His body and blood, we proclaim His victory over death, until He comes again to make His victory our own.

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## **LINDA MCGRATH FUNERAL SERVICE NOTICE**

Funeral services for Linda will be 11:00 am June 21, 2022, at the Tolstoy Wesleyan Church. Burial will follow in Gettysburg. A prayer service will be 7:00 pm June 20, 2022, at Luce Funeral Home, Gettysburg, with visitation prior.