

# Fr. Simon Sez

**Fr. Simon Gone on Retreat:** I will be gone on my annual, required retreat at the Sioux Spiritual Center in Howes, SD (south of Faith) this Tuesday, June 13 to Wednesday, June 21, 2023 except for the weekend Masses next weekend June 17 - 18, 2023. (I will return for our weekend Masses in the middle of my retreat. I am providing daily Masses for others on a previously scheduled retreat that the scheduled priest had to cancel out. Dr. Carole Brown, the Spiritual Director there received my phone call the afternoon of the same day requesting a personal retreat that the scheduled priest called to cancel. See how the Lord provided in this case!)

## Catholic News Agency (CNA) May 5, 2023

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/>

### Possible Miracle of Multiplication of Eucharistic Hosts:

The Archdiocese of Hartford asked the Vatican to investigate a possible Eucharistic miracle that happened March 5, 2023. At the conclusion of Mass, Father Joseph Crowley announced that an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister witnessed something unexplainable as he was distributing Communion. “One of our Eucharistic ministers was running out of hosts, and suddenly, there were more hosts in the ciborium. God just duplicated himself in the ciborium,” an emotional Crowley told the faithful. [Pictured above is a statue of the Infant of Prague from the former hospital chapel in Gettysburg and a ciborium of unconsecrated hosts.]



[See Fr. Crowley’s short announcement at the end of Mass: <https://youtu.be/Vc8fwczavWs>

See Fr. Crowley’s homily one week later with facts: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_CKy65YYFk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_CKy65YYFk)]

**National Celebrate Life Day Rally:** Leading pro-life organizations will hold a “National Celebrate Life Day” rally and gala in Washington, D.C., on June 24, the first anniversary of the reversal of the infamous U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. According to Catholic News Agency (CNA), Shawn Carney, president of 40 Days for Life, told CNA that because the 2022 Dobbs decision occurred on the feast of the Sacred Heart, the event will hold a special significance for Catholics. “This event is the epitome of how Catholics in America can make history if we trust God, go to work at the grassroots, and unapologetically share the Church’s beautiful teachings on the dignity of the human person,” Carney said. [The Celebration of Life event in Sioux Falls is on June 24 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at O’Gorman High School Campus in Sioux Falls to coincide with this national event. It replaces the annual Prayer Rally & Walk found by me on January 22, 1998. This is the date of the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973.]

## Word of the “Living Father”: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ Sunday



Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14–16; Psalm 147:12–15, 19–20; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; John 6:51–58

The Eucharist is given to us as a challenge and a promise. That’s how Jesus presents it in today’s Gospel.

He doesn’t make it easy for those who hear Him. They are repulsed and offended at His words. Even when they begin to quarrel, He insists on describing the eating and drinking of His flesh and blood in starkly literal terms.

Four times in today’s reading, Jesus uses a Greek word—*trogein*—that refers to a crude kind of eating, almost a gnawing or chewing (see John 6:54, 56, 57, 58).

He is testing their faith in His Word, as today’s First Reading describes God testing Israel in the desert.

The heavenly manna was not given to satisfy the Israelites’ hunger, as Moses explains. It was given to show them that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

In today’s Psalm, too, we see a connection between God’s Word and the bread of life. We sing of God filling us with “finest wheat” and proclaiming His Word to the world.

In Jesus, “the living Father” has given us His Word come down from heaven, made flesh for the life of the world.

Yet, as the Israelites grumbled in the desert, many in today’s Gospel cannot accept that Word. Even many of Jesus’ own followers abandon Him after this discourse (see John 6:66). But His words are Spirit and life, the words of eternal life (see John 6:63, 67).

In the Eucharist we are made one flesh with Christ. We have His life in us and have our life because of Him. This is what Paul means in today’s Epistle when he calls the Eucharist a “participation” in Christ’s body and blood. We become in this sacrament partakers of the divine nature (see 1 Peter 2:4).

This is the mystery of the faith that Jesus asks us believe. And He gives us His promise: that, sharing in His flesh and blood that was raised from the dead, we too will be raised up on the last day.

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