

## THE MOMENT OF DECISION

In today's Gospel, we see the culmination and the aftermath of Jesus' Bread of Life discourse. Jesus has presented his teaching on the Eucharist, and the disciples are struggling with believing in it because they don't understand it. It is the moment of decision. His teaching about the Eucharist presents a moment of decision for all who follow him, because it requires faith and not just understanding.

If we try to start with reasons, as we've seen over the last few Sundays, some truths of God will remain out of reach for us, and we'll fall back on the certainties we already know, as many of the disciples did in this Gospel. *We shouldn't be shy about asking Our Lord to help us in our unbelief.* As Peter describes it in his response to Our Lord, believing leads to a conviction.

We can live a life of faith without understanding it thoroughly and, somehow, it all fits together. Let's examine our life today and see whether we've drifted from what Our Lord has taught, or whether we've doubted that his teaching now continues through his Church.

*Fr. Peter Nhat Hoang*



## REFLEXIÓN DEL PADRE PEDRO

## EL MOMENTO DE DECISIÓN

En el Evangelio de hoy, vemos la culminación y las secuelas del discurso de Jesús sobre el pan de la vida. Jesús ha presentado su enseñanza sobre la Eucaristía, y los discípulos están batallando en creer, por que ellos no lo entienden. Es el momento de la decisión. Su enseñanza acerca de la Eucaristía, presenta un momento de decisión para todos los que le siguen, porque se requiere de fe y no de entendimiento.

Si tratamos de comenzar con razones, como hemos visto los últimos domingos, algunas verdades de Dios quedaran fuera de nuestro alcance, y nosotros caeremos de nuevo en las incertidumbres que ya sabemos, como muchos de los discípulos hicieron en este Evangelio. *No debe darnos vergüenza preguntar a Nuestro Señor que nos ayude en nuestra incredulidad.* Como Pedro describe en esta respuesta a Nuestro Señor, creer conlleva a la convicción.

Podemos vivir una vida de fe sin entendimiento y, de alguna manera, todo encajara. Examinemos nuestra vida hoy, y veamos si nos hemos alejado de lo que Nuestro Señor nos ha enseñado, o si hemos dudado que su enseñanza continua ahora por medio de su Iglesia.

*Padre Pedro Nhat Hoang*

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR CATHOLIC STUDENTS:** ETC (Education, Travel, & Culture) is in need of Catholic families to host some Spanish-speaking Catholic exchange students from Spain & Mexico. If you are interested in hosting a student(s), please contact Patrice Goodman, at ETC (**480-868-0243** or email: [pgoodman@edutrav.org](mailto:pgoodman@edutrav.org)). Website is: [www.edutrav.org](http://www.edutrav.org).

**NEXT CARMELITE AUXILIARY MTG.** — The Auxiliary will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, **September 10, 10:00am**, at the Carmel of Maria Regina (87609 Green Hill Rd. Eugene), in the library. Questions? Call Luellen at 541-915-5342.



**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS** — Regular Court meeting on the **third Thursday of the month** — next is on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** ... This is an evening meeting, 5:30 — 7:30pm, in the Parish Hall at St. Mary (Charnelton St.) — **bring a friend!** For info contact Julia Kelso at 541-344-6851, or [www.cdacourtoregon118.com](http://www.cdacourtoregon118.com).

**YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY!** Eugene Catholic Young Adults, ECUA, is for every Catholic young adult, ages 21-39! Whether you are looking at re-entering the Catholic faith, or you are still going strong, come check out our vibrant, faith-filled community, every Thursday evening at St. Mary Church (in parish Center), **6:45pm**. Next meeting is **Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**. For more info, contact: [eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com) or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA)

### JOINT PARISH PICNIC

August 26<sup>th</sup> — 3:00pm @ St. Mark

**What to Bring (REVISED) :**

A—H SALAD  
I—P DESSERT  
Q—Z SIDE DISH



## FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

### ARE THE 7 SACRAMENTS IN THE BIBLE?

Some Christians have wondered why the Song of Songs is included in Scripture. It never explicitly refers to God — instead, it's poetry celebrating the love of a husband and wife: "I belong to my lover, and my lover belongs to me" (6:3). Since ancient times, however, Catholic interpreters have read this book in light of St. Paul's insight that the marriage covenant is a sign of the everlasting covenant between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:25-32). As an inspired portrait of ideal human love, then, the Song of Songs also portrays the mutual love of God and his people, to be fully consummated at "the wedding feast of the Lamb" (Rv 19:9).

In Christ's miracle at the wedding in Cana (Jn 2:1-11), the Church sees his proclamation that the ancient institution of matrimony (Gn 1:26-31; 2:18-25) has been raised to the level of a sacrament — an efficacious sign of God's presence. In fact, in ephesians 5:32, St. Paul uses the word "mystery" to refer to marriage, which in Greek, is also the word for "Sacrament".

The other six sacraments are found in Scripture as well: Baptism, Reconciliation (Confession or Penance), the Eucharist, confirmation, anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders (the ordination of clergy).

In the below list of biblical texts, we find instances of all seven sacraments in the New Testament, as well as some Old Testament precedents.

### RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

**Baptism:** Mt 28:19 · Mk 16:16 · Jn 3:5 · Acts 2:38; 16:15,33; 18:8; 22:16 · Rom 6:3-4 · 1 Cor 1:16; 6:11 · Col 2:11-13 ·

Titus 3:5 · 1 Pt 3:21 · **Confirmation:** Wis 9:17 · Acts 8:14-19; 13:3; 19:1-6 · 2 Cor 1:21-22 · Eph 1:13 · Heb 6:1-2

**Eucharist:** Mt 26:26-28 · Mk 14:22-24 · Lk 22:19-20 · Jn 6:47-66 · 1 Cor 10:16; 11:23-30

**Reconciliation:** Ex 32:20 · Lv 19:20-22 · Nm 5:6-7; 14:19-23; 17:11-13 · Mt 16:19; 18:18 · Lk 15:18-19 · Jn 20:23 · Acts 19:18 · 1 Cor 5:3-5 · 2 Cor 2:6-11; 5:18-20 · Jas 5:16 · 1 Jn 1:8-9

**Anointing of the Sick:** Mk 6:5,12-13 · Lk 13:13 · Acts 9:17-18 · 1 Cor 12:9,30 · Jas 5:14-15

**Holy Orders:** Mt 18:18 · Lk 10:16; 22:19; 24:47 · Jn 13:20; 15:5 · Acts 6:6; 15:2-6; 20:17,28; 21:18 ·

1 Tm 3:1-7; 4:14; 5:17 · 2 Tm 1:6 · Ti 1:5-9 · 1 Pt 5:1

**Matrimony:** Mt 5:31-32 · Mk 10:2-12 · Lk 16:18 · Rom 7:2-3 · 1 Cor 7:1-24; 7:39 · heb 13:4 · 1 Pt 3:1-9 ·