

Grand Knight Views

My Dear Brothers,

BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT! The first words spoken by Jesus in the present liturgical are these: “Be watchful! Be alert!” This seems to be a fitting reminder as we continue preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection. During this time of preparation, I try to sit back and take stock of my own attitudes and behaviors. Perchance a time to reflect on attitudes and behaviors exhibited at Mass each week. The Second Vatican Council urged all Catholics to be people who practice full, conscious, and active participation at Mass. Most rightly believe that this means being attentive at Mass, participating wholeheartedly in the prayers and rituals at the heart of the Church’s liturgy.

What does it mean to be “conscious” at Mass? Do you ever feel that sometimes you are just going through the motions rather mechanically when you celebrate with the parish community at Mass? Do you ever find yourself “waking up” halfway through Mass, wondering where your mind has been the rest of the time? These are normal human responses to repetitive behavior, and it seems that so much of the Mass is repetitive from week to week. But, herein lays the great treasure of the Mass! The fact that many parts of the Mass are similar from week to week reminds us that it is we who are expected to be different each week. We believe deeply that each time we celebrate Mass we are transformed in some way; we move a little further along our spiritual journeys. But this really cannot happen unless we enter the celebration in a conscious way. This means we need to look back over the past week and bring the accumulation of all our joys and sorrows, highs and lows, moments of exaltation and moments of disappointment- we bring all of these consciously to Mass with us. It is here that the Lord Jesus exalts with us in those moments of joy. It is here that the Lord Jesus walks with us along the roads of disappointment and despair. And it is here to that the Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, lifts us up and transforms us, offering us new life through the power of the paschal mystery, his saving death and resurrection.

In His time on earth, Jesus spent time with those who were conscious of their sinfulness. And what did He do? He ate with them. And He transformed their lives. That same Jesus is present each week as we gather around the tables of the Word and the Eucharist. As the celebration of Easter draws near, let us all be conscious of all the needs that should be lifted up in joy and all the needs that need to be transformed.

In Him,

Jeff