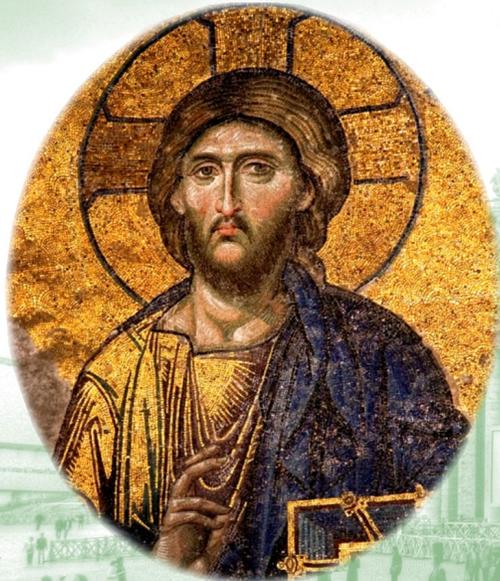


# THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS



A SUMMER SERMON SERIES - AUGUST 2015

WEEK 1 — AUGUST 1-2, 2015

## THE ESSENTIAL PERSON: JESUS CHRIST

### **I. ALWAYS IN NEED OF RENEWAL:**

*We live in a Culture that is changing by leaps and bounds - and not always for the best.*

*We have seen the increase of “nones” in our culture, those who claim no religious affiliation.*

*People are still seeking God — Claim to be “Spiritual”*

*The fact that many of our young people leave the practice of the Faith most by the age of 23 -*

*many of those whom we have Baptize, Confirmed, Eucharize and raise in the Faith are already gone*

*At best they are only nominally attached to the Church*

**CULTURAL CATHOLICISM WHICH WE RELIED ON TO KEEP THEM IN THE CHURCH IS DEAD**

**THIS SHOWS** that something essential is missing.

*If the Church is to be the Witness to Christ that she is called to be - our current way of being “Church” has to change. WE NEED TO RECAPTURE WHAT HAS BEEN UNDER-EMPHASIZED*

**WE NEED TO RECAPTURE THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS**

*We need to refocus our lives as persons and as Parish on what is important, what is central, what is essential. — Not simply for our own survival, but so that we may bring souls to Christ.*

### **II. THIS MONTH - AUGUST 2015 - WILL BE A TIME OF RENEWAL FOR US!!!**

**A time where our sermons will focus on 5 Catholic Essentials**

**This weekend we will focus on the one Essential Person in our lives: JESUS CHRIST and the relationship we should have with him.**

**Next weekend we will look at the ESSENTIAL ENCOUNTER**

**How we have and how we can continue to Encounter God in our lives**

**The following weekends we will continue by looking at what our Parish is called to be as well as looking at her Essential Mission.**

**And The last Sunday of this month we will discuss our ESSENTIAL COMMITMENT.**

**DURING THIS MONTH THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES OF PRAYER as we pray for God’s grace upon us all.**

. . . faith is first and foremost a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, it is having an experience of his closeness, his friendship and his love. It is in this way that we learn to know him ever better, to love him and to follow him more and more. May this happen to each one of us!

Benedict XVI, *General Audience*, Oct. 21, 2009

**THIS QUOTATION ALMOST SOUNDS PROTESTANT - IT IS NOT**

*For the most part we Catholics are uncomfortable with language that speaks of a personal relationship with Jesus — It sounds too Protestant and Evangelical — But that's what we are called to.*

<<< WITNESS TALK >>>

**IT IS ABOUT A REAL AND ABIDING ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST, THAT IS TANGIBLE:**

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:1-3

<<< FIRST COMMUNION DRESS EXAMPLE >>>

**IT IS A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER THAT TRANSFORMS US:**

Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

**IT WILL CHANGE US**

**IT WILL CHANGE OUR PARISH:**

**POPE FRANCIS TELLS US:**

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

**MAY WE DESIRE THIS ENCOUNTER, MAY WE LONG FOR THIS ENCOUNTER.**

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**NEXT WEEK WE WILL DISCUSS HOW WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS ENCOUNTER**

**AND HOW WE OPEN OURSELF UP TO A DEEPER ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD.**