

# THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES - AUGUST 2015

WEEK 3 — AUGUST 15-16, 2015

## THE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY: THE PARISH

I. RECAP: *Two weeks ago, I began our sermon series on*

### THE CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS

*We discussed the Importance of a Personal Relationship with our Lord JESUS CHRIST:*

*We saw that this Personal Relationship is NOT AN OPTIONAL REALITY FOR OUR LIVES*

- *Our Lord DIED ON THE CROSS so that we might have such a relationship with HIM*
- *The LIVES OF THE SAINTS all display the presence of this Personal Relationship*
- *And that the last three POPES have all called us to such a relationship*

*Last week we saw that our Lord has already encountered us and wants to encounter us in an ever deeper way through*

- *the SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH*
- *SACRED SCRIPTURE and SACRED TRADITION*
- *and in our life of PRAYER*

TODAY WE WILL LOOK AT THE PRIVELEDGED COMMUNITY WHERE ALL THIS TAKES

### PLACE - THE PARISH

BUT WHAT IS THE PARISH? - *St. John Paul II says this:*

[THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AND THE DIOCESAN CHURCH]. . . . finds its most immediate and visible expression in the *parish*. It is there that the Church is seen locally. In a certain sense it is the *Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters*.

- John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, § 26.

The parish is not principally a structure, a territory, or a building, but rather, (1) “the family of God, (2) a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit”, (3) “a familial and welcoming home”, (4) the “community of the faithful”. Plainly and simply, the parish is . . . . a *Eucharistic community*. This means that the parish is a community properly suited for celebrating the Eucharist, the living source for its up building and the sacramental bond of its being in full communion with the whole Church . . . .

- John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, § 26.

## ***St. John Paul II tells us the Parish is a SCHOOL OF PRAYER***

**Yes, dear brothers and sisters, our Christian communities must become *genuine "schools" of prayer*, where the meeting with Christ is expressed not just in imploring help but also in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly "falls in love". Intense prayer, yes, but it does not distract us from our commitment to history: by opening our heart to the love of God it also opens it to the love of our brothers and sisters, and makes us capable of shaping history according to God's plan.**

- John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, § 33.

## ***St. John Paul II tells us the Parish has a MISSIONARY CHARACTER***

**The institution of the parish, thus renewed, "can be the source of great hope. It can gather people in community, assist family life, overcome the sense of anonymity, welcome people and help them to be involved in their neighborhood and in society". In this way, every parish . . . can promote nowadays a more person-centered evangelization ....**

- John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, § 41.

***NEXT WEEK WE WILL FLESH OUT WHAT THIS MISSION LOOKS LIKE***