

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 08/08/21

“The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven,’ and they said, ‘Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.’”

Most people grumbled against Jesus because they didn’t understand what he had to say. They thought they knew him.

For the moment these people couldn’t see beyond the here and now. They weren’t yet ready to see with the eyes of faith.

This can be a challenge for everyone.

We have physical bodies. We live natural lives and for the most part our lives are pretty pleasant most of the time. By and large we have it pretty good as Americans.

Because of this we too can fail to look beyond the here and now. It’s very tempting to try and make this life its own little paradise.

But if we do this we may very well end up compromising many of the values we learned when we were young. We may find ourselves making one concession after another that is in conflict with Church teaching and the gospel.

What the world values cannot be our standard because these counterfeit values cannot save us.

I've said time-and-time again that this community has done a great job holding fast to the faith of those who came before them – certainly more than a lot of communities have.

But I've also made it clear that there is always more that can be done...there is always more to learn. We can never stop growing in the knowledge of our Faith. We can never stop examining ourselves to see how we are really doing in regards to the practice of the Faith.

I once heard it said, "We will either conform ourselves to Christ or we will end up conforming Christ to ourselves."

The choice is ours.

Our Father in heaven has drawn us to his Son through the Sacraments of his Holy Catholic Church, beginning with Baptism and confirmation and continuing throughout our lives with Confession and the Eucharist.

Jesus is bread that came down from heaven and he promised that whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The bread that he offers is his flesh for the live of the world – the Most Holy Eucharist.

Jesus gives himself to us as food with the promise of eternal life. Is it really too much to ask that we conform ourselves to Jesus and his Church?