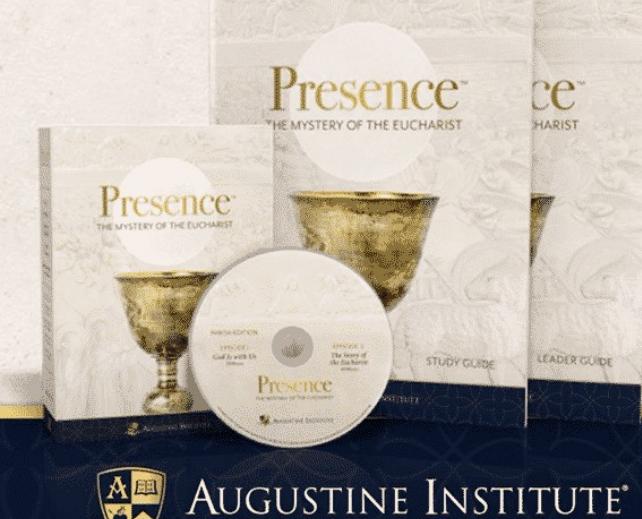


What is it that is so special about the Eucharist?

PresenceTM

THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST



AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE[®]
UNDERSTAND, LIVE, AND SHARE YOUR FAITH

Join us for the Eucharistic Revival at St. Patrick by attending a 3-part series entitled "PRESENCE" from the Augustine Institute.

These presentations will be held on Sunday after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses, June 26th, July 3rd, and July 10th. In this beautiful study, you will learn what the Church teaches about the precious gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, and why it is pivotal to your spiritual life and the lives of those you love. Registration is not necessary. Lite Breakfast will be served.

PASTOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE FOR THE 13TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - C

"I will follow You wherever You go"

In today's Gospel, we meet a man who asked to be allowed to do something. He said to Jesus: "I will follow You wherever You go." He was probably not very much aware of what this would ask of him. You know, yourself...when someone is too quick to promise something, you are not always sure he will do it. At times, the person tells you: "whatever you want, I'll do it." When you take him at his word, then you see that he did not really mean what he said. Jesus warns that man. He makes it clear that following Him—Jesus—will not be easy: "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." In other words, someone who follows Jesus will not enjoy the comforts of life. He will not have a life that is filled with pleasures. It will not be all *sweet and soft* to walk with Jesus. Anyone who wants to try should know that from the beginning. There will be sacrifices to make.

There will be things to leave behind, and people to part with. This is what the next two people are faced with... We have heard what Jesus tells each one: One to whom He said, "Follow Me," replied, "let me go and bury my father first." But He answered: "Leave the dead to bury the dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the Kingdom of God." Another said: "I will follow You, sir, but let me first go and say goodbye to my people at home." Jesus said to him: "Once the hand is laid to the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God." In the Gospel, we see Jesus, walking around towns and villages with twelve of His Apostles. They were those who accompanied Him wherever He went to preach God's message. But, we do not know how many He called who did not join Him... We know of one, whom we call "The Rich young Man." (Mark 10:17-22) There might have been others who heard His call but they, too, found it too difficult. What happened to those three men we see in today's Gospel?

Jesus does not deceive people, telling them if they follow Him, everything will be easy. No. He even tells them that they will have to choose between different duties. Between the call of their people at home and that of following Him. He does not say that they should not bury their parents or say goodbye to them. But, He wants people to think for themselves—are they ready to put God's Kingdom above and before anything else? And, the same question is asked of us, today. The same question and the same call... Are we ready, as Christians, to follow Jesus, truly, wherever He goes? To follow Him without always knowing where this will take us? And, to accept that our being faithful to Him may sometimes ask us not to follow what our relatives and friends want us to do?

We all know the areas in life where it is not easy to live as a Christian. It is not easy for a Christian to be honest and just in all his dealings with people. It is not easy to speak the truth, and only the truth, in all situations. It is not easy to be faithful to my wife/husband. It is not easy to live in good understanding with my neighbors—respecting them and helping them. It is not easy to be patient with the people I live with *and all the time*. It is not easy not to judge and condemn others. Not easy to avoid gossiping. All these things are part of being a follower of Jesus. If I want to be one, I must know that He will expect me to be like Him—someone who gives all he/she has... We might not be able to give all, *all at once*. But, God is patient. He will wait until we are ready to give Him ALL.