

LITURGY BYTES

What's New from the Pope?



On June 29th, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic letter entitled *Desiderio desideravi*, from Jesus' words, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you."

The letter is a call to greater formation in liturgy. The Pope acknowledged that there is a lot of material for study of the liturgy, but this knowledge needs to spread beyond academic environment and be made accessible so that everyone (the faithful) might grow in knowledge of the theological sense of the liturgy.

The 23-page document offers some of the Holy Father's reflections on the Eucharist and the meaning of worship. If you are eager to read his reflections, google the name mentioned above to add it to your summer reading!

The Pope suggests that at the heart of the lack of liturgical formation is the modern inability to understand symbols. He asks the question "How do we recover the capacity to use and understand the symbols of the liturgy?" Continuing, he says that we must not lose hope because this dimension is in us and despite the evils we contend with in the world today, goodness, the unity of the body and soul can re-emerge.

As we have learned the power of the gestures of the liturgy from our grandparents, parents, priests, teachers, and catechists, we need to recall how this formed us and look towards what that meant and felt like for us (think about how we learned to make the sign of the cross). Do we need to be like children again? Maybe! The work lies with the Holy Spirit and how we embrace and receive these gestures. We cannot be robbed of such richness. Let us try to be re-initiated into symbolic language once again.

Enjoy the summer weather, stay safe, healthy, and blessed! ~*Michele Hall*