

**Catholic Heart Workcamp
Pre-Trip Meeting 2: 2020**

Opening prayer:

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord God, you revealed to Moses Your name “I am that I am.” You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the One who Was and Forever will be. You Lord, are always with us, preparing for us a great future.

We know You have great plans in store for us this summer, especially during CHWC. We ask You this day to bless this gathering. As we prepare for our mission trip this summer, guide our preparation and help us to bring Your light, Your life, and Your love to all we meet.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Read John 6

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. “So, they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day.

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.” The Jews murmured about him 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 draws him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: ‘They shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.”

Discussion on Scripture:

This is a popular chapter in the Gospel of John called “The Bread of Life Discourse. Jesus says over and over again to the disciples, “I am the Bread of Life”. He reminds them that this is different than the bread that Moses gave their ancestors years ago.

They don’t understand what Jesus is telling them and they start whispering to each other and Jesus says - “stop murmuring”- Stop gossiping, Stop talking under your breath and listen to me... this was a WAKE-UP statement from Jesus. And the words that follow next are truly LIFE Changing. Jesus says “I AM the Bread of Life” ...whoever eats this bread will live forever. He goes on to say this ‘bread’ is His Flesh for the life of the world. All those around Jesus start questioning even more, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” They are thinking that Jesus is crazy, they are about to walk away, and Jesus is very clear.

He could have said, just kidding this is a parable... this bread is like my flesh or represents my flesh, BUT Jesus says the opposite, the very thing that they say can’t be possible. Jesus says, “Amen, Amen”, When he says these two words together, He is making a very clear statement. It’s as if Jesus is saying “Hello I am telling the truth here; I want to be clear... this is the truth!” And Jesus continues, “Amen, Amen I say to you - unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you don’t have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will have eternal life.”

This is the good news; do you hear what Jesus is saying to us? He is telling us to receive Him in Holy Eucharist, that the Eucharist, as hard as it may be to believe, is truly The BODY, BLOOD, SOUL and DIVINITY of Jesus Christ. This is what it’s all about. We are Catholic, this is the Source and Summit of our Faith.

When we head to CHWC this summer, we will receive Jesus Christ’s Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist daily so we can bring Him to those that we serve. The more we receive Him the closer we become to Him. What a gift He has given to us, not only the gift of His very Body and Blood for us to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, but the promise of Eternal Life and being raised up on the last day with Him in Heaven. May we proclaim the Great I AM, the Bread of Life to all we meet and serve, especially this summer in _____ (Name of City)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you heard this Gospel reading, what did you think about? Have you heard it before?
2. Have you ever gone to Mass outside of your Sunday obligation? Have you ever gone to Adoration or been in an Adoration Chapel? If so, what was it like?
3. What are you looking forward to during mission trip with CHWC this summer?
4. What is one gift/talent God has given you that will help you this summer at CHWC?