



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

Letting the Word

Become Flesh

Catholic Media and the Eucharistic Revival.

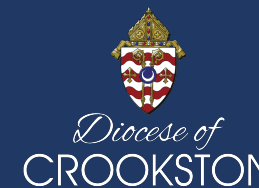


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Bishop of Crookston

Chair of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

What is the Eucharistic Revival About?



✦ Encounter and Mission ✦



Living *Evangelii Gaudium*

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal **encounter** with **Jesus Christ**, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day” (E.G., #3).



Making the Missionary Conversion

“The world still does not know it, but everyone is *invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb* (Re 19:9)... We must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way in the twists and turns of human living” (Desiderio desideravi, 5).



Making the Missionary Conversion

“This is what I spoke of when I said, “I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (E.G., # 27). I want this so that all can be seated at the Supper of the sacrifice of the Lamb and live from Him” (DD, #5)



Encounter with the Living Jesus

“Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist” (DD, 10).



True Conversion begins with an Encounter

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”

He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. (John 1:38-39)



Encounter with the Living Jesus



Msgr Luigi Giussani
Communion and
Liberation Movement

“There are deep needs that give a goal to living, to reasoning and to moving. When something corresponds to the criteria by which everything is judged and lived, when it corresponds to the criteria by which life is lived, should be lived... when it corresponds to the deepest needs of the heart... when it brings to fruition what life has been awaiting then its **exceptional.**”

Encounter with the Living Jesus

“I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” (E.G., 7).



Essential elements to this encounter:

- The realization that Jesus is God.
- The realization that I am a sinner.
- The realization that I am infinitely loved.
- I am invited to follow him in a new life.



Encounter with the Living Jesus



Pope Benedict XVI
Jesus of Nazareth, 92-93

“The organ for seeing God is the heart. The intellect alone is not enough. In order for man to become capable of perceiving God, the energies of his existence have to work in harmony. His will must be pure and so too must the underlying affective dimension of his soul, which gives intelligence and will its direction”

Encounter with the Living Jesus



St Teresa of Calcutta

“Jesus wants me to tell you again, especially in this Holy Week, how much is the love He has for each one of you – beyond all you can imagine. I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus – one to one – you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel – but **have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love?....”**

Encounter with the Living Jesus



St Teresa of Calcutta

“....Do you really know the living Jesus – not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace, **He is longing simply to give it.** Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying ‘I Thirst’ in the hearts of the poor....”

Encounter with the Living Jesus



St Teresa of Calcutta

“....Never give up this intimate contact with Jesus as a real living person – not just an idea. How can we last even one day living our life without hearing Jesus say ‘I love you’ – impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air. If not, prayer is dead – meditation only thinking.”

[Varanasi Letter]

Encounter with the Living Jesus

“The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him.”



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Desiderio Desideravi, #11

Encounter with the Living Jesus

“In the Eucharist and in all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments.”



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Desiderio Desideravi, #11

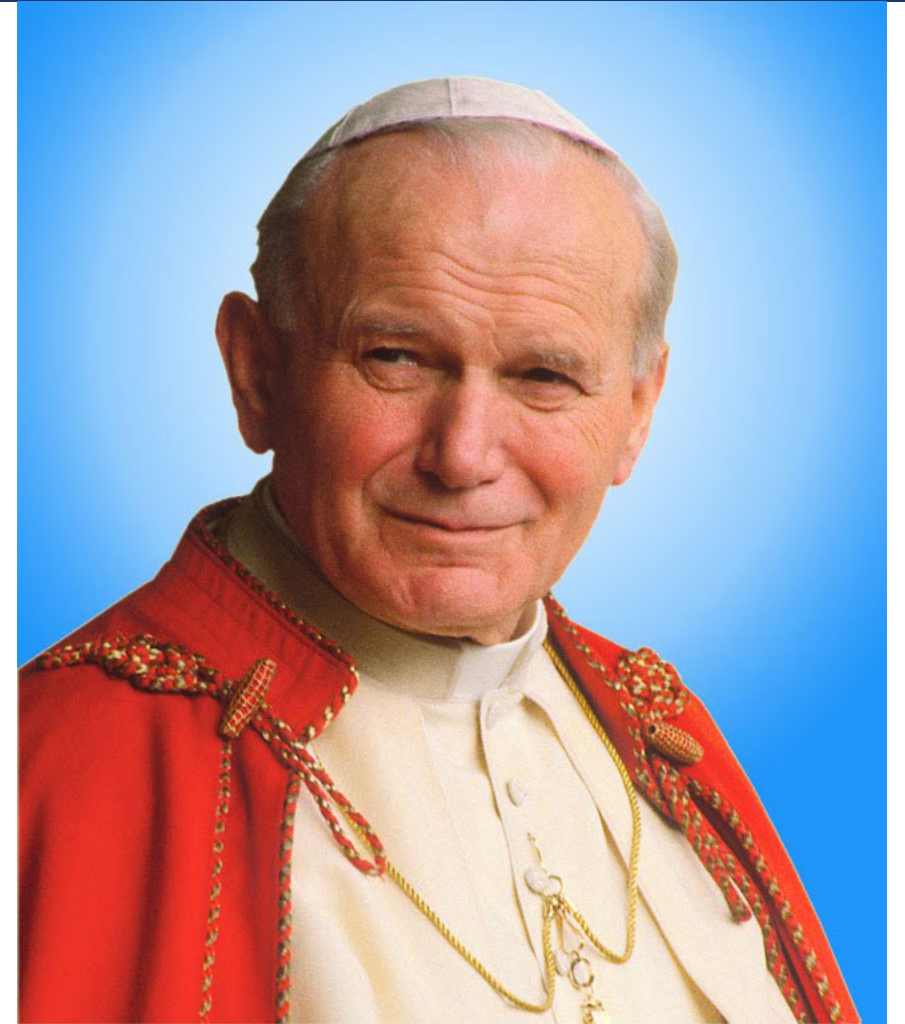
Encounter with the Living Jesus

Pope Leo XIII
Mirae Caritatis
“Oh Wondrous Love”



Paradigm of St. John Paul II

- Relationship
- Identity
- Mission



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“The other sacraments, as well as with every ministry of the Church and every work of the apostolate, are tied together with the Eucharist and are directed toward it” (Presbyterorum Ordinis, 5).



What does the Eucharist reveal about our identity?:

- I am God's beloved, the bride for whom he died.
- I am the Body of Christ.



“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Cor 10:16).

“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it” (1 Cor. 12:27).

From Maintenance to Mission

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.”



St. Theresa of Avila

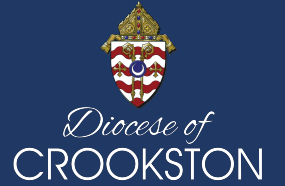


St. Paul VI

“In the long run, is there any way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one’s personal experience of faith?”

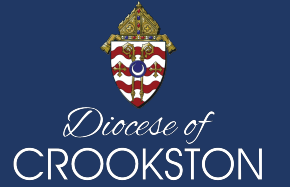
Pope Saint Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 46

During a revival God will:



- Grip His people with deep conviction, repentance, forgiveness, and deliverance from personal sins.
- Fill His people with the Holy Spirit and manifest through them the fruit and graces of the Holy Spirit.
- Fill the church and community with His presence and power.
- Cause non-Christians to earnestly seek Him.
- Ignite in His people, young and old, a passion to bring the lost to Christ at home and around the world.

Letting the Word Become Flesh



**I'm just a man with all my weakness
But I am burning with love.**

Letting the Word Become Flesh



Thank you!