

Dear Padre,

When I was young, we never had eucharistic devotions. Why are they so popular now?

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, many Catholics found solid food for their spiritual lives in eucharistic devotions, which include visiting the Blessed Sacrament (eucharistic adoration), attending Forty Hours devotion, and assisting at benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

However, as the modern liturgical movement began picking up steam, scholars and theologians began questioning the amount of energy and attention going toward eucharistic devotion. They urged us to focus our spirituality more clearly on the Mass—the action of the sacred liturgy and the Eucharist itself—and to understand that all eucharistic devotions outside of the sacred liturgy are meant to direct us back to the action of the Mass, the eucharistic sacrifice, and its high point of Communion.

The drop-off in eucharistic devotions after Vatican II can be positively understood as an attempt to take the insights of liturgical reform seriously and develop a more liturgical piety. At the same time, the resurgence of eucharistic adoration is a worthy retrieval of a beloved practice that both scholars and the faithful understand as complementing a full, conscious, and active participation in the sacred liturgy that is the “source and summit” of our lives.

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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We do well to spend time in adoration before the Eucharist....Let us allow Jesus the Living Bread to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us.

HOMILY, BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



Our Parish Community

August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Wis 18:6–9

Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 or 11:1–2, 8–12

Lk 12:32–48 or 12:35–40

Live By Faith

The story of Abraham is one of extraordinary blessing. However, his story is also one of extraordinary faith. At major points of his life, Abraham had no idea what was in store for him or his family. He was directed to leave his home and become a wandering herder. He was an immigrant in a foreign land, bereft of social support structures. He was promised descendants but waited many years for that promise to be realized. Once he had an heir, he was then told to sacrifice that son of promise without any assurances of a favorable future. Time and again, Abraham was asked to live by faith.

The phrase “seeing is believing” is misleading. It is really an expression of skepticism that means, “I won’t believe it unless I see it.” However, true belief means that we accept something even though we don’t see it, don’t understand it. That is a very difficult way for most of us to live. Yet live like this we must, whether

we are believers or unbelievers, because so much of life is beyond our control or understanding.

So how do we learn to live by faith? We have something that Abraham did not have. We have his story to encourage us. In that story we see that again and again he stepped forward in faith, and God brought things together. If God did this in Abraham’s life, surely God can and will do it in ours. We must only live by faith.

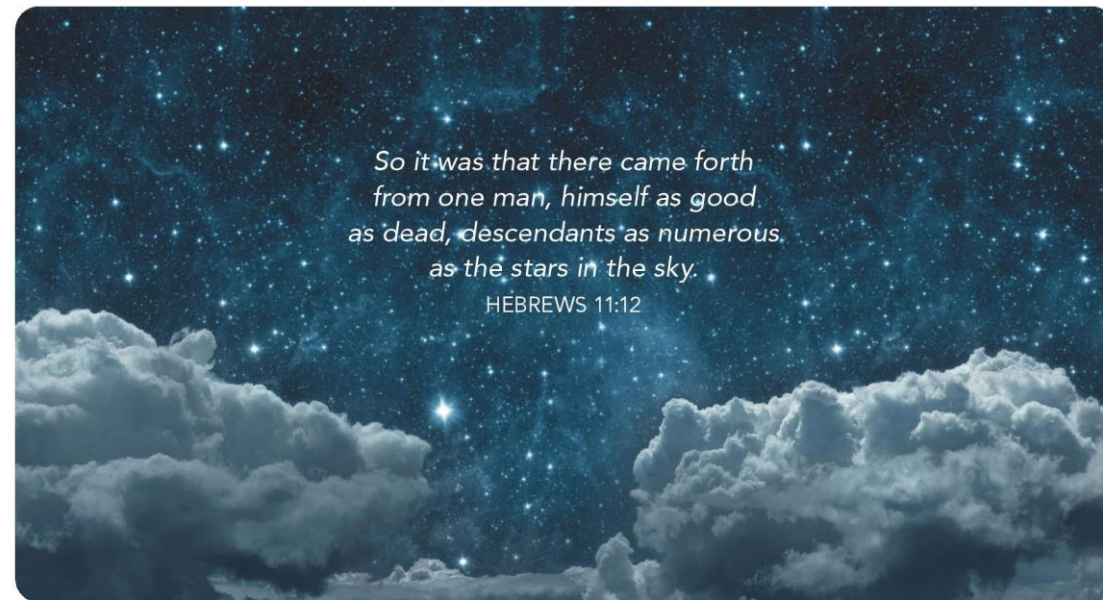
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Do you always need certainty before you act? Has that always worked?*
- ★ *Be grateful for the times when you stepped forward in faith and God brought things together.*

*So it was that there came forth
from one man, himself as good
as dead, descendants as numerous
as the stars in the sky.*

HEBREWS 11:12



JOHANN / SHUTTERSTOCK