

# One Body, One Spirit in Christ



everyday if I wanted to but I am busy. I have to take a test or there is something more important in my life.

If Jesus is not the most important thing in my life, then there is something I am not doing correctly. I pray that people my age can experience what the saints experienced before us and become more holy and become better Catholics. But I understand that the only way to do that is to experience Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. It is the most fundamental and necessary thing that our faith is based on.

I would like to share a quick little story with you. There was a hermit who went out and lived in the mountains. He was the holiest man you could imagine. Nobody knew why. Everyone wanted to know. One day a young man about my age went out to meet this hermit and he asked him, "What makes you so holy? Why are you this amazing faithful man?"

*Lord,  
Thank you so much for being  
with us in the Eucharist;  
For dying for me;  
For giving me the opportunity  
to visit you as often as  
I want - I am sorry for the times  
that I haven't.*

*I pray that you will make me stronger  
and give me the ability to want you  
more than I want air right now.*

*Thank you so much for these people;  
For this day;  
For all that you have given me.  
I love you.*

*- by Paul Blaschko*

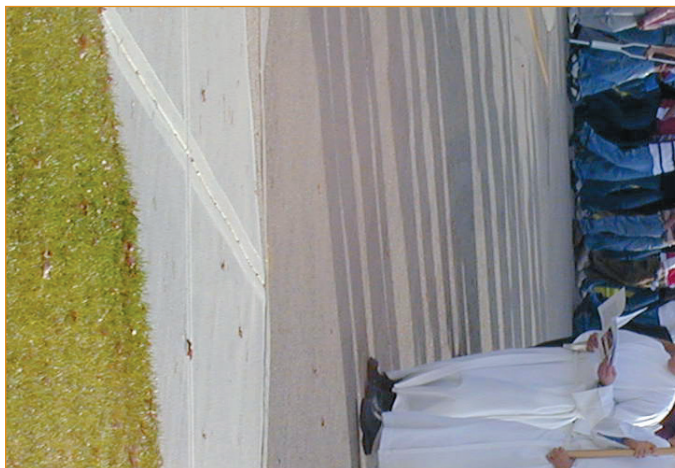
What can I do to achieve this?" The hermit looked at him and he just slugged him across the face. The young man fell backwards and the hermit pushed him down a hill into a stream. The hermit then walked down and he was about waist deep in water and took the young man and put his head under the water. The young man was frightened and

didn't know what to do. He began clawing for air. Finally he just grabbed and pushed the hermit away from him. He came up for air and breathed and he was so relieved. He then asked the hermit, "Why did you do that to me? Why would you try to hurt me?" The hermit looked at him and he said, "If you think you wanted Jesus in the Eucharist more than you just wanted air, then you will be holy."

I challenge each one of you to want Jesus more than you want anything here on earth. Nothing is going to last, but Jesus will be here forever. He will be with us until the end of time. I don't know about you but that is so much better than the next car, the next house, or the next grade that I will ever get in my life. I just hope all of you can experience it as well.



(Above l-r) Confirmation students ventured to Ramsey Park for a gathering based on the Eucharist led by the Diocesan Youth Council. (Middle) Sue Stanley of St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian, discusses the Eucharist with the 6-8 yrs. olds. Assisting in the classroom was Mary Braun of St. Mary's, Willmar and J.C. Stanley of St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian. (Right) Karin Justin of St. Aloysius, Olivia reads a book about the Eucharist to the 4-5 yr. old children. Assisting that class was Zach Stanley of St. Thomas More, Lake Lillian. (Below-left) Faithful of all ages and walks of life joined Bishop Nienstedt in a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. (Right) Bishop Nienstedt called forth the children ages 4-11 to give a blessing.



(photos by Fr. Eugene Brown & Chris Clancy)

In recognition of the closing of the Year of the Eucharist designated by Pope John Paul II, almost 700 faithful from throughout the diocese gathered with Bishop John C. Nienstedt October 9, 2005 at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls for a Year of the Eucharist Celebration. The family event included a holy hour for vocations, a homily on "The Year of the Eucharist" by Bishop Nienstedt, testimony, childrens' activities relating to the Eucharist and a "gathering" for Confirmation students based on the Eucharist. The day ended in a recitation of the Rosary followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament before gathering for a light meal. Bishop Nienstedt's homily on "The Year of the Eucharist" is available at [www.dnu.org/bishop/100905-homily2\\_000.htm](http://www.dnu.org/bishop/100905-homily2_000.htm). A video/DVD of the entire Celebration is available from the diocesan Media Resource Center, (507) 233-5330; email: [jweicherding@dnu.org](mailto:jweicherding@dnu.org).

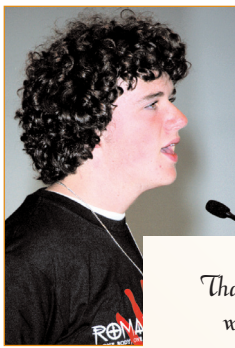


(Left) Sr. Mary Danielle Johnson, RSM, from the diocesan staff, assists the 9-11 age group in creating a Eucharistic design using plastic craft material that shrinks upon contact with heat - better known as "Shrinky Dinks".



*Editor's note: As part of the Eucharistic Celebration, sixteen year old Paul Blaschko, (pictured below) gave testimony to "What the Eucharist Means to Me". Paul is the son of Russ and Deb Blaschko, members of the Church of the Holy Rosary, North Mankato.*

**The Eucharist to me** is the most amazing, brilliant, and beautiful thing that I have ever experienced in my life. I haven't always felt like this. Growing up Catholic, I always knew that the Eucharist was really the true presence of Jesus - I read it in the Bible, but I never really understood exactly what it meant. In a recent poll done by Time Magazine, it showed that only 30% of people my age actually believe that it is actually Jesus right there. That shocked me!



We need to teach the youth of this generation about the Eucharist because they are not going to be young forever. They are going to grow up and they are going to be the church. I don't know about you but I would like more than 30% to believe that the Eucharist is truly Jesus.

Standing here right now, I feel so ashamed and embarrassed just to be compared to a God who loves me so much that he will come and die on the cross. He not only died for me, but he presents himself in the Eucharist as many times as I will come to visit him. The worst part is, I don't do it that often. I could go