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Saint of the Day:

Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati



Pier Giorgio was born in Turin, Italy to a wealthy family that owned the newspaper La Stampa. His father was not a devout Catholic, but Pier Giorgio displayed devotion and piety from a young age. As he grew older, he became a third order Dominican and was active in Catholic student groups. Once he was arrested for taking part in a demonstration. He was not a gifted student, much to the dismay of his father, who hoped he would be able to take a position running the family newspaper business. He loved to spend time climbing in the mountains that surrounded his home town, but he was also tireless in serving the poor people of the city. When he died of an acute case of polio in 1925, thousands of people unexpectedly attended his funeral, many of them were the people who knew him from his charitable work, which he had carried out almost in secret. Pope John Paul II called him the Man of the Eight Beatitudes and beatified him in 1990. His feast day is July 4th.

What is the Church?

Confirmation Prep, Session 4

February 13/February 17, 2018

Opening Discussion...

- Who/What is the body of Christ?
- Who are the people of God?
- What is the Communion of Saints?
- Who are the successors to the apostles?
- What are the sacraments?
- Which are sacraments of initiation, healing, and service?
- How can the Eucharist really be Jesus?

Topic of the Day...

- The Catholic Church was founded by Jesus Christ.
- The Apostles were chosen to spread the message of Jesus and appoint successors.
- Jesus commanded his Apostles to Baptize, to offer the Eucharist, to forgive sins, and to teach.
- Everyone who is baptized shares in the mission of the Church.
- The mission of the Church is to bring all people into God's family.

Silent Prayer/Big Questions...

- Who and what is the Church?
- Do I believe in all the Church teaches? The Creed? The authority of the Church?
- What do I have questions about?
- Do I adore you, Lord, and love you as you ask me to?
- What experiences in the Church or with the sacraments have led me to a deeper faith and which have been difficult?
- Do I believe in the true presence of Jesus (Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity) in the Eucharist?
- Do I approach the Eucharist with awe and adoration, or is this difficult?

Scripture Reflection

John 6:48-71

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.” This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caper’na-um.

Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that should betray him. And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve, “Will you also go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was to betray him.

The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church. In a variety of ways she joyfully experiences the constant fulfilment of the promise: “Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20), but in the Holy Eucharist, through the changing of bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord, she rejoices in this presence with unique intensity. Ever since Pentecost, when the Church, the People of the New Covenant, began her pilgrim journey towards her heavenly homeland, the Divine Sacrament has continued to mark the passing of her days, filling them with confident hope. The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is “the source and summit of the Christian life”. “For the most holy Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself, our passover and living bread. Through his own flesh, now made living and life-giving by the Holy Spirit, he offers life to men”. Consequently the gaze of the Church is constantly turned to her Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Altar, in which she discovers the full manifestation of his boundless love.

(From Pope John Paul II's 2003 Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*)