

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## PLUG INTO THE POWER...

Recently I read about some funny signs that made me think. One sign read: "Toilet out of order, please use floor below." In a London department store: "Bargain basement upstairs." In a safari park: "Elephants please stay in your cars." Seen at a conference: "For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the first floor." Notice in a farmer's field: "The farmer allows walkers to cross the field, but the bull charges." And this sign on a repair shop door: "We can repair almost anything. (Please knock hard on the door-the bell doesn't work).

All of us rely on signs to provide vital information. A sign represents something other than itself. Smoke is a sign of fire. A red light is a sign of danger. Dark clouds are a sign of rain. A siren is a sign usually of some emergency such as a fire or an accident. A flag is a sign of one's country. The Lord Jesus has given us certain signs in the church. These signs are the seven sacraments.

Recall a definition from the Catechism about what a sacrament is: "an outward sign instituted by Christ that gives us grace." Grace can be described as God's life within our souls. The more grace, the better! Each sacrament confers God's grace in a special way. There are three different categories of sacraments- initiation, healing and service.

The initiation sacraments are those of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. The sacraments of healing consist of Penance (Reconciliation) and the Anointing of the Sick. Those sacraments at the service of the community of the Church are Holy Orders and Matrimony. Some sacraments can be received only once- Baptism, Holy Orders and Confirmation. However, there are other sacraments that may be received frequently such as Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, Holy Communion should be received every Sunday if we are in the state of grace. Out of all the sacraments, the Eucharist is the most important one since all the others flow from it. That's why it's so important to be "plugged in" to the power of God's grace that is given to us in Holy Communion by attending Mass each week. Cut off from this power source, the life of our soul will wither and die.

In this regard, last year I received an Amazon "Alexa" from one of our parishioners. For the past few months, "Alexa" has been gathering dust because I did not know how to set it up. When it comes to technology, I am a little backwards! Well, thank God our own Father Mendis came to my rescue by showing me how to operate it.

Actually, he needed my iPhone in order to complete the set up. When I handed the phone to him, he said, "But Father, you need to charge this."

Thank God that at least I knew how to do that! I connected the phone to the charger and everything was ok.

Naturally, our phones and other devices need to be connected to a power source in order to function. It's just common sense. Well, as Catholics we need a strong connection, not the internet but rather to God's grace which is given abundantly in the Holy Eucharist. It is a great sign of the God's presence in our world.

The Blessed Sacrament fosters union with Christ, destroys sin in our souls, preserves us from serious sin and gives us new life. What can be better than that? After receiving the Eucharist, then we should really be "Other Christs" who are signs of His presence in our world this very day!

Sincerely in the Lord,  
Father Jerome