



Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival: Working for the Food that Endures

**Fr. Roger J. Landry • Catholic Lawyers Guild
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Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

- St. Andrew was called by Jesus Christ himself to be his disciple and apostle.
- A disciple of John the Baptist, he followed Jesus when John pointed him out as the Lamb of God.
- He came and saw where Jesus was.
- He was given the vocation of a fisher of men.
- He brought his brother Simon to him, not having any idea of what Jesus would do to and for his brother. “We have found the Messiah!”
- He brought the boy with the five loaves and fish to Jesus, having no idea of what Jesus might do.
- He brought the Greeks who wished to see Jesus to him, not knowing that would inaugurate Jesus’ hour
- He continued to proclaim Jesus for two days during his crucifixion in Achaia.



We, Too, Have Found the Messiah!

- Once St. Andrew knew of Christ's identity, everything changed and he centered his entire existence on Jesus, the Son of God made man. We can learn a great deal from what our response should be to the discovery of the Lord's identity
- Professor Peter Kreeft at the NY State Eucharistic Congress at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs in Auriesville last month analogized our response to the famous insight of C.S. Lewis that Jesus was either who he said he was, or a lunatic who crazily thought he was divine, or a liar who was pretending to be the Son of God. It's not possible to refer to him as just a renowned moral teacher.

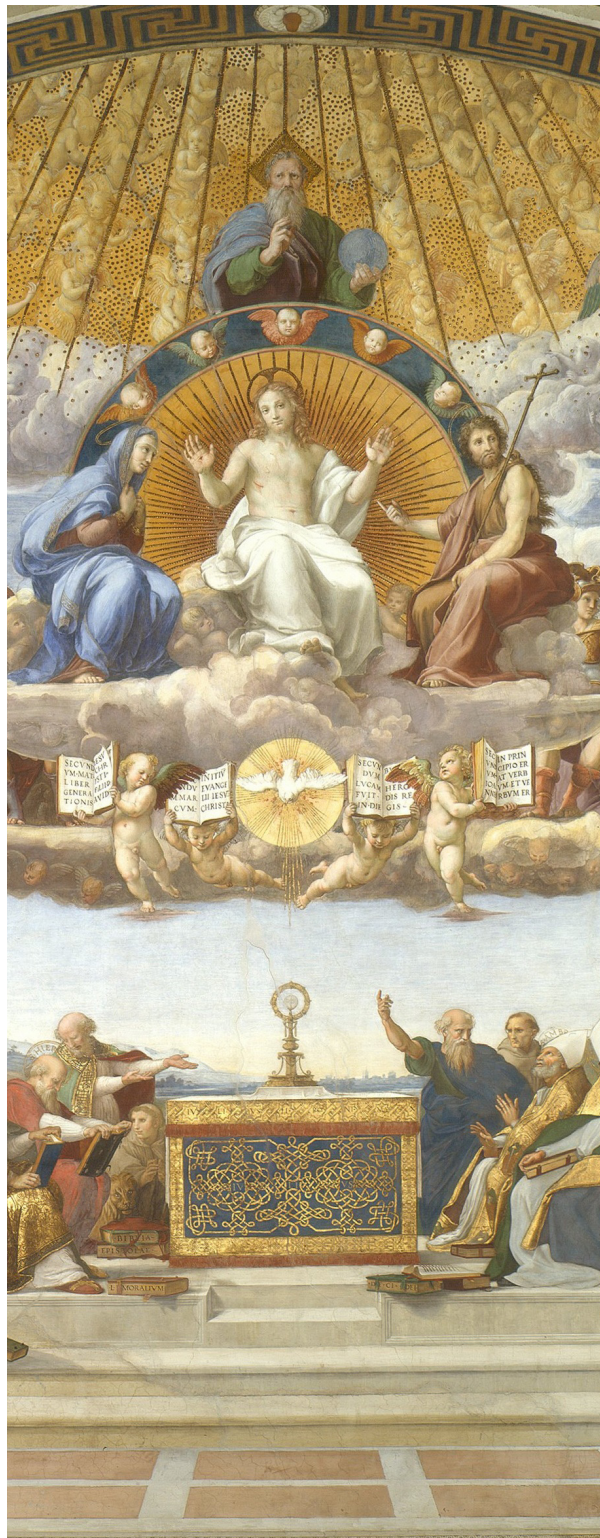


We, Too, Have Found the Messiah!

- Kreeft said: “The Catholic claim about the Eucharist is barely believable, incredibly incredible, stunningly stunning, astonishingly astonishing. Almighty God assumes human flesh and lets us eat his body and drink his blood!”
- “This is so shocking that when Jesus preached it, in John 6, most of his disciples, who up to that point had left everything to follow Him, stopped following and started leaving. You have to sympathize with those early protesters, those early Protestants: this startling Catholic claim is either true or false.
- “If it is false, if the Eucharist is not Christ Himself but only a holy symbol of Christ or a ceremony established by Christ, but not the very self of Christ, then Catholics are the most shamefully sacrilegious and idiotic idolaters in history, bowing down to bread and worshipping wine, confusing chemicals with the Creator of chemicals....
- “The Eucharist is either to be worshipped as God, as the extension of the Incarnation, or denounced as the most blasphemous and ridiculous idolatry in history. The one thing it cannot possibly be is something comfortable, and compromising, something non-divine and therefore non-divisive, merely a holy symbol.”

The Eucharistic Revival

- The reality is that many, indeed most, Catholics treat the Eucharist as something comfortable, as an accessory to their life at best, not as its source, summit, root and center. They treat the Eucharist as a “what” rather than a “Who.”
- That’s why the three-year-plus Eucharistic Revival taking place in the United States is one of the most significant initiatives the U.S. bishops have ever initiated.
- It’s a response to a crisis in Eucharistic knowledge, faith, amazement, love and life.
- This crisis is seen in:
 - Sunday Mass attendance
 - Eucharistic illiteracy
 - Post-COVID problems
 - Eucharistic scandals
 - Ordinary scandal of many not behaving as if we really believe what we profess.





The Eucharistic Revival

- The phases of the Eucharistic Revival:
 - Dioceses (June 19, 2022 to June 11, 2023)
 - Parishes (June 11, 2023 to July 17, 2024).
 - National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis, preceded by four National Eucharistic Pilgrimages, including one from New Haven through NYC to Indianapolis.
 - Mission – July 21, 2024 to June 8, 2025
 - But the most important phase is *personal*.
- Eucharist Preachers
 - I'm honored to be one of 56 Eucharistic Preachers appointed by the US Bishops to help catalyze the Revival.
 - I generally focus on four pillars: a revival in the way we approach and pray the Mass, prioritize time with Jesus in the Eucharist in prayerful adoration, be transformed by the Eucharist to give our own body and blood in charity toward others, and, like St. Andrew, seek to bring others to the Jesus we have found.
 - Today we can focus on each of them, before applying these insights to the situation of Catholic lawyers today.

Making the Mass Our Source, Summit, Root and Center

- Behaving according to our faith
 - Reverencing Christ
 - Prioritizing Christ – Martyrs of Abitene, 304 AD.
- Preparing for Mass
- Learning to pray the Mass
 - *Ars celebrandi*
 - Active, conscious and devout participation
- Giving Thanksgiving for the Mass
- Living the Mass



St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia: Eucharistic Revival Co-Patron

- “Every altar is a Calvary where Jesus is immolated and offered up in the sacrifice of redemption. If the first Mass had the power to transform the world, the rest of the Masses celebrated have the power to preserve and deepen that transformation. **If only we would live our Masses!** To live the Mass is to know the Mass thoroughly, to reverence the Mass highly for its value, to take as our norm of behavior what Jesus does in the Mass, and to delight in the Mass. Our utmost happiness on earth should be these words (if I am a priest): ‘I celebrate Mass’ or (if I am a member of the faithful), ‘I participate in the Mass.’ This knowledge, reverence, imitation and delight in the Mass should be so deeply rooted in me that during every hour of every day, it could be said of me, ‘He is living his Mass.’”





St. Josemaria Escriva: Saint of Ordinary Life

- St. Josemaria strove to make his whole day a continual Mass, making each day “totally Eucharistic.”
- He divided the 24 hours of the day into two parts: After celebrating Mass at 7 am, until noon he lived the presence of God by concentrating on thanksgiving for the Mass that he had celebrated that morning, and after the Angelus/Regina Caeli he began to prepare himself for the next day’s Mass.
- He wrote in 1945: “In this way, closely united to Jesus in the Eucharist, we will attain a continual presence of God in the midst of the ordinary occupations proper to each one’s situation, ... seeking our Lord at all times and in all things. ... Only thus will we be contemplative souls in the midst of the world, as our vocation demands, ... converting every aspect of our being into a continual praise of God.”



Prioritizing Time with Jesus in Prayerful Adoration

- The Eucharist is the same Jesus who was born in Bethlehem and adored by Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds and the wise men.
- St. Augustine: “No one eats that flesh without first adoring it; we should sin were we not to adore it.” Adoration outside of Mass strengthens our adoration during Mass.
- Pope Benedict XVI defined the two movements of adoration: *proskinesis* and *ad-oratio*.
- Pope Francis: “What is most important is adoration: the whole community together looks at the altar where the sacrifice is celebrated and adores.”
- Jesus asks us to spend time with him, to develop that *friendship* with him that is at the root of the Christian life.
- Do we prioritize time with the King of Kings!



Prioritizing Time with Jesus in Prayerful Adoration

- This December marks the 350th anniversary of Jesus' apparitions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.
- “Behold the heart that has so much loved men that it has spared nothing, even exhausting and consuming itself in testimony of its love. In recognition, I receive from most only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, by the coldness and scorn they have for me in this Sacrament of Love. What I feel the most keenly is that it is hearts that are consecrated to me that treat me in this way.”
- The needed response:
 - To ingratitude, unceasing thanks
 - To irreverence, deep piety
 - To coldness and lack of enthusiasm, passion.
 - To scorn, praise and blessing
 - To sacrilege, purity and holiness of life.



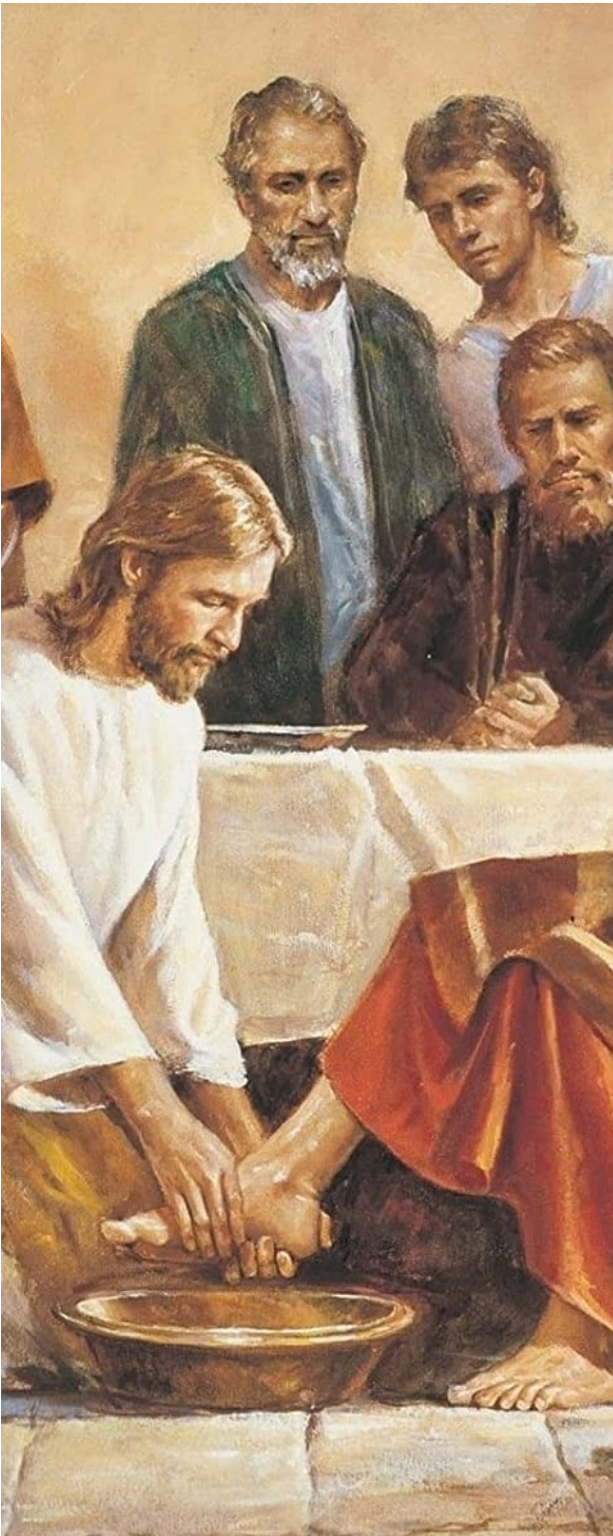
St. Kateri Tekakwitha

- St. Kateri (1656-1680) was born in Auriesville, New York, ten years after the martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues, of a Christian Algonquin mom and a Mohawk dad.
- When she was 19, she had a chance to talk to Jesuit Father Jacques de Lamberville, telling him she wanted to learn more about prayer and be baptized. **“Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?,”** she asked. After he tested her resolve, she was baptized the following Easter, and grew quickly in faith.
- Her Christian life was such a sign of contradiction to her fellow Mohawks that Father de Lamberville, to save her life, arranged for her escape to the Jesuit village of Caughnawaga, 200 miles north, just south of Montreal. There she made her first Holy Communion on Christmas 1677.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha

- From that point forward she lived a thoroughly Eucharistic life, adoring Jesus outside the locked chapel – on her knees, despite snow, ice and freezing cold –for an hour until it opened at 5 am, attending Mass and adoring Jesus inside until it was time for work and acts of charity, and returning after work for several more hours of adoration. When she traveled outside the village for the hunting season, she prayed in spiritual communion and adoration before a crucifix she would place in a tree.
- She died on the cusp of Holy Thursday in 1680, at the age of 24. Her final words were a summary of her brief but profound Eucharistic faith and life: “Jesus, I love you.”



Eucharistic Charity: Imitating Jesus' Eucharistic Kenosis

- There's a deep connection between the love of God and the love of neighbor.
- Jesus wants the Eucharist to change us, to “do this in memory of” him, to imitate what we celebrate.
- Washing of the Feet:
 - “I have given you an example to follow so that as I have done for you, you also may do for one another.”
- Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish
 - “Give them some food yourselves.”
- 1 Cor 11 – the Eucharist and Charity
 - “Whoever eats the Bread and drinks the Cup of the Lord unworthily...”



Eucharistic Charity: Imitating Jesus' Eucharistic Kenosis

- John Paul II – *Stay with Us, Lord*
 - “In the Eucharist, our God has shown love in the extreme, ... radically affirming the criterion of service: ‘If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.’”
- Pope Benedict – *The Sacrament of Love*
 - “In the Eucharist Jesus also makes us witnesses of God's compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The eucharistic mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbor.”
 - “The Eucharist thus compels all who believe in him to become ‘bread that is broken’ for others.”
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
 - “The Eucharist strengthens our charity” and “commits us to the poor.”



St. Teresa of Calcutta

- St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997) is without doubt one of the greatest and most compelling saints of modern times. A 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, she was voted in a 1999 Gallup poll the most widely admired person of the twentieth century.
- Her life shows how the Eucharist is meant to make every believer a missionary of charity.
- “The Eucharist and the poor are inseparable,” she said. “The One who said, ‘This is my body’ is the same one who said, ‘I was hungry and you gave me to eat’” (cf. Mt 26:26; 25:35).
- “To make our lives a true sacrifice of love,” she wrote to her fellow sisters, “we will consciously and actively enter into the spirit of the Eucharistic sacrifice and offer ourselves with Christ to be broken and given to the poorest of the poor, ... so that they may have life and may have it in abundance.”



Eucharistic Apostolate: Bringing Others to Jesus

- The Eucharistic apostolate, which means taking the truth about the Eucharist on the road, preaching it not from the pulpit but from the rooftops.
- In the heart of the Mass, right after the words of consecration bringing Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to the altar, there is a summons to share the gift of the Eucharist as the supreme mystery of faith.
 - “We *proclaim* your death, O Lord, and *profess* your Resurrection until you come again.”
 - “When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we *proclaim* your death, O Lord, until you come again.”
- When we make the encounter with our Eucharistic Lord the source, summit, root and center of our life, then we want others to share in that same blessing, just like Andrew brought Peter and others to Jesus.

Eucharistic Apostolate: Bringing Others to Jesus

- We see this transformation in the disciples on the Road to Emmaus.
- John Paul II (*Stay with Us, Lord*) – “Once we have truly met the Risen One by partaking of his body and blood, we cannot keep to ourselves the joy we have experienced. The encounter with Christ, constantly intensified and deepened in the Eucharist, issues in the Church and in every Christian *an urgent summons to testimony and evangelization, ... to be a missionary of the event made present in that rite. ... The Eucharist not only provides the interior strength needed for this mission but is also – in some sense – its plan. For the Eucharist is a mode of being, which passes from Jesus into each Christian, through whose testimony it is meant to spread throughout society and culture.*”
- The importance of Eucharistic Processions in witnessing and proclaiming Catholic gratitude for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist





Blessed Carlo Acutis

- Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2016) is the first millennial to be raised to the altars. He is the second co-patron of the Eucharistic Revival.
- After receiving his first Communion at 7, he became thereafter a daily Mass goer until he died of acute promyelocytic leukemia at 15.
- When he would receive Holy Communion, he'd pray in thanksgiving: "Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!"
- At the age of 11, he learned computer programming to build websites to catalogue and promote Eucharistic miracles after learning how effective they were in persuading his friends to come to Mass and adoration. He researched and wrote about them until they grew to a 196-part series. In 2005 it was exhibited in the Vatican during a conference on Eucharistic miracles during the Year of the Eucharist. It now continues to travel the world.



Eucharistic Amazement

- In a “Holiness kit” he made for the students he taught in catechism, he wrote: “Try to go every day to Mass and to receive Holy Communion. ... If you can, stay a few minutes every day in Eucharistic adoration in front of the tabernacle where Jesus is really present, and you will see your level of holiness increase considerably.”
- “I think that many people do not fully understand the value of the Mass, because if they recognized the enormous blessing we have in a Lord who gives himself as our food and drink in the Sacred Host, they would go to Mass every day to participate in the fruits of the sacrifice and let go of so many superfluous things.”
- “The more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we become like Jesus”
- “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.”



Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival

- To be a faithfully Catholic lawyer is to be a Eucharistic lawyer, someone who centers his life and work on his living relationship with the Eucharistic Lord.
- It's marked by the centrality of the Mass in the rhythm of life, by time spent adoring and consulting the Lord in adoration, in Christ-like Eucharistic charity, and in appropriately sharing with others one's Eucharistic identity.
- “Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you” (Jn 6:27).
- We can focus on 14 lawyerly virtues and how they ought to be strengthened by, and impact, our relationship with the Eucharistic Lord.



Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival

- **Justice** – The persevering will to give each one his due. *The virtue of religion is derived from justice and means first giving God his due.*
- **Integrity** – To be whole, to have a unity of life and be undivided. *Catholic integrity comes from uniting our whole life to God in the way that he has become God-with-us.*
- **Honesty** – Not to lie or to deceive but to be someone known for truth and candor. *We discover in prayer before the Lord who we really are and in speaking truthfully to him, we can learn to do so to others.*
- **Prudence**— The practical wisdom to know what can be done in circumstances and how to do it. *The Lord awaits us to give his counsel directly in prayer and through the Liturgy of the Word.*
- **Humility** – The capacity to know our limitations and to ask for help, receive corrections and improvements, learn from mistakes, etc. *Before the Eucharistic Lord, we become humble.*



Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival

- **Competence** – To be well-trained and fit for the task. *How important is for us to be fully-trained as Catholic disciples and apostles, especially those who have greater standing in the world!*
- **Reliability** – To be able to be counted on, to keep one's promises. *There is a loyalty needed to respond to the Lord's loyalty to us and faithfully prioritize him.*
- **Courage** – To do what ought to be done despite our fears. *We receive courage from God and, when we are united to him in communion, we can stare down even Satan and death.*
- **Compassion** – To have a heart for those suffering. *When we pray for our clients before the Lord, we enter into his own compassion for them "even to death on the Cross."*
- **Diligence** – To put love into one's work and never to become satisfied with shoddy work. *We learn how to sanctify and love our work by learning how to give it to the Lord like the sacrifice of Abel at the Offertory.*



Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival

- **Temperance** – To have one's appetites in check, especially with regard to anger. *We recalibrate all our appetites when we grow in communion with God-with-us.*
- **Generosity** – Not just in *pro bono* work, but in taking on cases others wouldn't, making things affordable and supporting important causes. *The Eucharist is the sacrament of Christ's generosity, from which we learn and are strengthened to give all.*
- **Perseverance** – To put in, sometimes long hours, to finish cases. *From Jesus, we learn how to fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith by persevering each day in prayer, at Mass, in charity and apostolate.*
- **Love** – We are called to love clients, judges, event those who are procedurally our "enemies." *We learn this type of heroic love only from one Source, who strengthens us to live by that standard.*

Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival



- The Eucharistic Revival is meant to revive not just practicing and fallen away Catholics, but also Catholic lawyers and through them, as salt, light and leaven, the legal profession and civic life.
- We have a model of a Eucharistic lawyer in Venerable Luis de Trelles y Nogerol (1819-91).
 - He studied civil law at the University of Santiago de Compostela and, after graduating, taught there as a professor in 1839.
 - A year later he opened his own law firm and, in Vivero, La Coruña and Madrid, for several decades served as a “lawyer of the poor,” without receiving any compensation for that work, fighting for justice for the oppressed. He succeeded in freeing 20,000 prisoners from death or captivity during his lifetime.
 - He served in the military, wrote for newspapers and magazines and was a Congressman. He was married to Adelaida and the father of three and adopted father to a fourth.

Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival



- He got his strength for this work from the Blessed Sacrament, and he devoted long hours of prayer to Eucharistic Adoration. He died during nighttime adoration.
- He encountered perpetual adoration in Paris in 1862 and it changed him. In 1868, he started it in Spain. By 1877, it had nocturnal adoration had spread to 50 different Spanish cities.
- He founded the Handmaids of the Eucharistic Jesus in 1881 in 30 different cities.
- He founded a magazine entitled, “Tabernacle Lamp” and wrote more than 10,000 pages.
- He is called the 19th century Apostle of the Eucharist.

Catholic Lawyers and the Eucharistic Revival

- He shows us the integration between being a top-notch lawyer and a thoroughly Eucharistic Catholic.
- He shows us how to be like St. Andrew with regard to the Eucharistic Jesus, to come to see where he stays, to bring others to him, and even to live in communion with him.





Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry



Most Recent Homilies

God's Comfort and the Conversion Required to Receive It, Second Sunday of Advent (B), December 6, 2020

Accepting, Following and Announcing Jesus without Offense, Second Sunday of Advent (EF), December 6, 2020

Walking the Way of the Kingdom Jesus Indicates, First Saturday of Advent, December 5, 2020

Running to Meet Our Light, Strength and Salvation, First Friday of Advent, December 4, 2020

Listening to and Acting on the Long Awaited One's Words, First Thursday of Advent, December 3, 2020

Going Hungry to Meet Christ in a Three-Fold Banquet, First Wednesday of Advent, December 2, 2020

Childlike Eyes to See, First Tuesday of Advent, December 1, 2020

Singing the Song of the Lamb, 34th Wednesday (II), November 25, 2020

Turning to the Lord Who Comes to Judge the Earth, 34th Tuesday (II), November 24, 2020

Following the King and Lamb Wherever He Goes, 34th Monday (II), November 23, 2020

Most Recent Articles

Our Duty and Salvation, The Anchor, November 27, 2020

Living the Reality of the Kingdom of Christ, National Catholic Register, November 19, 2020

The Knights Our Age Needs, The Anchor, November 13, 2020

Remembering Andrew Walther, November 7, 2020

Just a Parish Priest, The Anchor, October 30, 2020

Coming to Know the Original Three-Dimensional Carlo Acutis, The Anchor, October 16, 2020

A Good Shepherd Full of Christian and Priestly Virtues, The Pilot, October 5, 2020

Returning to the Sacrament of Divine Love, The Anchor, September 18, 2020

The Pastoral Malpractice of Liturgical Abuse, The Anchor, September 4, 2020

The Chosen, The Anchor, August 21, 2020

Most Recent Talks

Receiving the Lord Jesus as Mary and Joseph, Advent Day of Recollection for the Leonine Forum, December 5, 2020

Novena in Preparation for the Immaculate Conception, Leonine Forum, November 28 to December 8, 2020

Blessed Michael McGivney and the Call to Holiness, McGivney Festival Young Adult Prayer Vigil, October 31, 2020

Apprenticeship in the Art of Living, Duc in Altum Virtual Schools Summit, October 28-30, 2020

Preaching on Marital Love and Accompanying Couples toward the Full Embrace of the Church's Teaching, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Divorced and Remarried, Challenges and Triumphs in Pastoral Care, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Heart of the New Evangelization: Meeting, Knowing and Loving Jesus Back, New Zealand Evangelion's In his Name Virtual Conference, October 10-11, 2020

Christian Anthropology: The Human Person in the Modern World, Leonine Forum Opening Lecture, October 8, 2020

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, UNSRC Catholic Club, August 27, 2020

Making Better Confessions, Catholic Information Conference, July 24, 2020

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Questions and Discussion