

HOMILY – TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 20, 2010

Father Jim Carini

“My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God”

This morning we are privileged to welcome Jessica Delton to the Table of the Lord as she receives her First Holy Communion. Some of you probably have wondered why we haven't had First Communions at Sunday Masses this year. It isn't because we moved them to Saturdays. We made a decision to have our children receive their First Communion in third grade instead of Second Grade. The reason we did this is because the 2nd grade level is a very busy year. Our students had to prepare for two important sacraments in the same year. We found that it was a very stressful time for children who are so young. They would just finish Reconciliation and have to move into studying and preparing for the Eucharist. It became too much in the same year.

Now the reason Jessica is receiving her First Communion as a second grader is because she is moving to another town and a different parish. That parish still has its children making First Communion in second grade. So we decided to have Jessica celebrate her First Communion this year otherwise she would miss receiving it next year as a third grader. We are happy that you are with us this morning, Jessica, and able to make your First Communion among us.

To witness Jessica receiving her Lord in Holy Communion is a good opportunity to reflect upon the importance of the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood. Just two weeks ago, we celebrated the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. It was a celebration that helped us give thanks for the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

This morning we prayed our responsorial psalm as we sang over and over, *“My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.”* I found it a very prayerful time to remember how much I thirst for the Lord in my life. I hope it had the same effect on you too.

The world in which we live affords us with so much. We are a rich country. When we get hungry and thirsty we can satisfy ourselves by going to the store to buy the food and drink we need. We don't have to go too without food and drink, unlike the millions of others who live on our planet who go to bed hungry and thirsty each night. Our friends in St. Pierre Parish in Haiti don't have what we have and we are making an effort to help them in feeding their minds and hearts with a good education, and also with the nourishment of food to sustain them.

But food and drink are also needed for our souls. Jesus came into our lives to teach us God's Word. It is a living word that gives life. It satisfies us deep within with spiritual values. Jesus also gave us his own Body and Blood to partake of. This is the food and drink for our journey in this life. We may be able to live with our stomachs full of good food, but unless we partake of Jesus as the living bread, we won't have real life within us. We have a spiritual hunger and thirst deep within us that only God can satisfy. And he gave us his only Son to fill us with spiritual food and drink.

Jessica, today you receive your Lord in Holy Communion. This is a very special day for you, for your parents and family, and for all of us in the parish family of St. Matthew. We are sending you off to your new parish of the Holy Family in Hebron where you will continue to be nourished by the Lord.

My good friend, Father Mike Smith, will be your pastor now. He is a wonderful priest and a fine pastor. I am very happy for you because I know you will be happy there and you will grow in your faith.

God bless you and your family. We will miss you. Come back to visit us sometime soon.