FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Still fifteen more Sundays until Advent and nineteen until Christmas, so plenty of time for Santa to finish making my gifts for this year.

For those kids out there that are hoping that Santa would give them an early present by canceling school this fall, I am sorry, but school is still on…and it starts this week. Yikes!

As I pointed out last week, our school exists to help form young people to be disciples of Jesus Christ. A good disciple models his or her life after the teacher, trying to be more and more like the leader. We are "Christians" because we are called to be "other Christs".

This past week, we celebrated the moment when some of Jesus' first disciples got a greater glimpse of Who their teacher truly was. During the Transfiguration, Jesus, in a sense, unzipped his humanity to show forth His divinity. It wasn't as though the humanity was just a mask over His divinity, though. Jesus did not get rid of His divine nature when He became one of us, but He also fully took on a human nature. He is a divine person with both a full divine nature and a full human nature. Theologians have termed this the Hypostatic Union, and it is one of the great mysteries of our Faith: how the two natures of Jesus coexist without comingling.

Anyway, during Mass, right before the priest prays over the chalice of wine, the deacon puts a drop of water in, quietly saying, "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, Who humbled Himself to share in our humanity." Jesus, when He mysteriously united His divinity to our humanity, did so not only so that He could be human like us, but that we could be divine like Him. How we will share that divinity eternally is another mystery, and it will not be as fully as Jesus shares our humanity, but the reality is that we share in His divinity already in this life thanks to our baptism. God's divine life is present in us, and the more we are Christian, are other Christs, the more that divinity shines through. Just as Jesus revealed His divinity to Peter, John, and James, we can reveal His divine love and goodness to others when we are truly Christians, truly other Christs.

As I said, though, this is all a mystery, so do not feel like you have to completely understand. We will not completely understand until we participate eternally in the divine life. Until then, let us just be grateful that such a blessing has been bestowed on us little old humans. That gift is way better than whatever Santa was planning on bringing this Christmas.

Have a great week and a good start to the school year.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch