

Second Sunday of Easter

Next month our diocese and our neighbors in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are co-sponsoring an event called Behold KC. We will replicate what happened on the same day, May 4, in 1942: a prayerful gathering of Catholics at Kansas City's Liberty Memorial. As part of the national Eucharistic Revival, this event will feature music, confessions and the rosary, leading up to a celebration of Mass and a period of eucharistic adoration. It will probably be the largest gathering of Catholics in the history of the metro area. People of other denominations and faiths are all welcome to join us in prayer. The event will highlight something dear to us Catholics: our belief that Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, is truly present in the eucharist.

Last weekend at the cathedral we witnessed that belief in a profound way, when our ten catechumens, newly baptized and confirmed, received holy communion for the first time. More first communions followed on Easter morning. All of these people have been yearning to share the sacred meal at this altar with us. Their faith has deepened, and they have felt impelled to act on it. True belief leads to action.

The First Letter of John says, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God." At our Easter Vigil, Bishop Johnston baptized those who believe and brought them into the ranks of the children of God. John explains in his letter, "we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments." Furthermore, John says, God's "commandments are not burdensome." Far from it, they give life. When we fulfill the command to worship each Sunday and profess our faith in the eucharist, we demonstrate the strength of God's love in our hearts.

True belief leads to action. In addition to weekly participation at Mass, we're hoping people will take advantage of special events such as Behold KC, on Saturday, May 4. On that day, we will still offer our 2:30 Mass, but throughout Kansas City, parishes are canceling their Saturday afternoon Masses to encourage the faithful to congregate at Liberty Memorial. This unified outpouring of faith and devotion will make an impact in Kansas City and beyond, drawing attention to our love for God and his commands, as well as our belief that Christ is truly present and commands us to love all the children of God.

You do not have to register to attend Behold KC, but it helps if you do. That will give the organizers a better idea how many people to expect. A full schedule and frequently asked questions are on the website BeholdKC.org. God has poured out his divine mercy especially through the coming of Christ and his gift of the eucharist. True belief leads to action. Let us keep this mystery in our hearts, profess it with our lips, and live it in our lives.