

During my years in the seminary, I was given a wonderful book, “No Man is an Island” by the monk Thomas Merton. I learned so much about prayer from this book and from the wonderful man who wrote it.

Fr. August Thompson an African American priest and one of American Catholics most significant voices wrote to Thomas Merton. He described how in many communities African Americans could only enter a white parish if there was no black parish nearby. Once there they had to sit together in the same section and wait until white parishioners had received Holy Communion before being allowed to approach the altar rail!

The Eucharist “the sacrament of Love that binds us together was weaponized as an instrument of disunity and hate.” Racism has been a brutal stain on our Church. We pray and work for its end.

In a 2019 Pew Survey reported that only a third of US Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. I hope that the number of Catholic who believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity is much higher. We have such a wonderful, awesome gift in the real presence of Jesus in Holy Communion.

Today on this Feast of Corpus Christi the Catholic Church in the United States is beginning a Eucharistic Revival and has as a highlight a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024

Jesus needs each one of us to be His hands and feet throughout this Eucharistic Revival. Just think of the horrible wars, the starvation, the gun violence, the loss of so many to our faith. We need the real presence of Jesus.

If you haven’t received Holy Communion for a while – please come. Jesus fed the hungry crowd as described in today’s Gospel. Jesus so wants to feed you, to be aware of His love for you in the Eucharist. Jesus wants us to put an end to racism in our hearts, in our Church, in our country.

Today’s Gospel tells us that “They all ate and were satisfied.” Jesus is our satisfaction, our life.