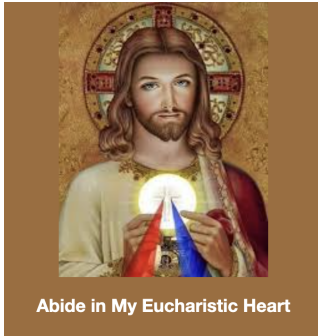


TASTE Reflection Questions #2
September 28, 2023



Take Courage in the Storm

Msgr Charles Pope

When you look at the Crucifix,
you understand how much Jesus loved you then.
When you look at the Sacred Host,
you understand how much He loves you now.
~ St. Teresa of Calcutta.



1. What did you find most thought provoking about this talk? For example:

- Msgr. Pope's view on the world / country situation
- The idea that God and I are not 1 and not 2
- Other thoughts that you found thought provoking

2. Msgr Pope said that we need to "Fix our focus", because it will influence our attitude. He gave the example of after producing the miracle of multiplying the fish and loaves of bread, He **made** the disciples go before Him in a boat. Peter stepped out of the boat in the storm at Jesus' request. When Peter focused on Jesus, he was walking on water, but when he started to focus on the storm, he began to sink.

- When did you focus on the storm only to feel helpless?
- Were you able to re-focus on Jesus?
- What helped you to focus on Jesus rather than the storm? (e.g., Remembering God's help in past situations? Reading God's word? Encouragement from a Christian friend? Other?)

3. Msgr Pope challenged us with a very pondering question: Do you want the consolation of God or do you want the God of consolation?

- What does that mean to you?
- How can we come to a point to desire God and His will for us, our country, etc. vs consolation?

4. There are times that we may feel that God is Hiding His face from us. Our **perceived** distance from Him produces distress (shadows get longer, fears get deeper, storms seem more severe). Yet, He is always there and ready to have a relationship with us. Msgr. Pope explained that we don't have to go on special retreats to see God. He encouraged us to not depend on "feeling" God's presence, but to **hear** and **see** Him in the most obvious places (e.g., Mass, Bible, Eucharist, Priest)

- Did Msgr Pope's statement surprise you? How
- What obvious places do you see and hear God?
- What new places will you now open your eyes to see the Lord?