



A CATECHETICAL MOMENT

I would like to share with you a recent, Internet (on-line) article that has an abundance of catechetical insight and value in our current fast-paced society; when everyone is so busy with this or that. How much does our own personal, work, and social life conflict with our baptismal responsibilities to fulfill our spiritual covenant to God?

A writer stated:

“I have a concern about being in good graces with the Church. I have not gone to confession in about 6 months, I think. I do watch Mass on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and listen to EWTN at work. But my work schedule, which I know is an excuse I am using, gets me very tired by the weekend and I have therefore not been going to Mass to receive Holy Communion. Does watching Mass on EWTN take the place of actually going to a church on Sunday?”

The response was:

“You need to go to confession for starters. And you need to attend Mass every week, if you are not seriously ill. Being tired just doesn’t cut it.

Watching Mass on TV, if one is seriously ill [and unable to physically come to church (hospitalized, bedridden, etc.)] is fine. But watching Mass on TV, if one is not seriously ill does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation. It’s like watching the food network instead of actually eating a meal. If one has enough energy to eat dinner, then one has enough energy to go to Church and receive the Body of Christ!”

[What is sorely absent in just watching the Mass on EWTN at home is vitally important: Our full and active participation in the Order of the Mass and the reception of Holy Communion—the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ—the source and summit of our faith!]

It is both a precept of the Catholic Church and Church law that Catholics are to worship God on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation by participating in the Holy Mass. This follows from the fact that in the Mass, it is Christ Himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to His.

In no other way is it truly possible to adequately give thanks (the Greek: εὐχαριστία or Latin *eucharistia*) to God for the blessings of creation, redemption, and our sanctification than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ Himself. Following the example of the Old Covenant, the Church does this weekly, on the Lord’s Day (the day of our Lord’s Resurrection).