

What the Eucharist Means to Me

Amelia Plohg 3/3/18

Hello everyone. My name is Amelia Plohg and I am an 8th grade student here at Prince of Peace. I have been going to school here since first grade and have been continuously growing in my faith.

In second grade, we began to learn about two important sacraments, one of them being the Eucharist. I remember we all had books and studied what the Eucharist means and how transubstantiation works. We learned about the history, how to fold our hands, when to say Amen, etc. I did my homework and passed my quizzes, but I still didn't really know what it meant, nor did I fully understand how it was supposed to connect to me. Now, I'm going to be honest, my First Communion didn't change any of this. During my First Communion, I was thinking about the celebration that awaited me afterwards at home, talking with my friends about all the fancy dresses, searching for my relatives in the crowd, and was not focusing or even thinking about the Eucharist. Unlike what some people say, all my questions weren't answered as soon as I took Communion. I felt accomplished, but I did not feel a huge connection with God; at least, not the connection I had been expecting to feel and that so many had told me about. This connection, would actually come later in my life.

Over the years I have significantly grown. I've always known what I want and have never been afraid to speak up for what I believe in is right. I believe that I owe this to the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, God has given me strength and courage to be myself and a leader for others. The endless support from the church and my classmates helps me to accomplish this and I know that I can always rely on my faith. Through this, my friends rely on me for support and

leadership. I will always support my friends no matter what, and some come to me seeking advice on how to be strong. I also know that the priests and staff at Prince of Peace are there for me. Knowing that God is there for me no matter what is extremely crucial in who I am. I know that there is nothing I can do to make God leave. This gives me courage and faith.

Mother Teresa once said, "I held the Host with two fingers and thought: how small Jesus made himself, in order to show us that He doesn't expect great things of us, but rather little things with great love." I truly believe that the Eucharist resembles exactly this. The Eucharist helps remind me that it is not necessary to do grand gestures, especially without love, and that, rather, we can do small acts of kindness with great care and great love to make the world a better place. The Eucharist reminds me to focus on the important things in life no matter how small they may seem. It was only a couple of years ago that I started really paying attention to this, and I felt the connection with God through the Eucharist. I realized that I was waiting for something that wasn't going to happen. I was waiting for a grand gesture from God and to feel a huge connection on a specific day or situation. The truth is that I have always been connected to God, but now I was also connected to Him through the Eucharist and I know that he is always with me.

Next year I will be starting high school. I will be attending a public school which is a big change. I am very excited, but also a little nervous. I will miss the close-knit community that Prince of Peace has to offer me and my friends that will be going to different high schools. I am going to use the strength that of Eucharist to help me, and know that God will be with me and stay with me throughout the entire journey. I look forward to meeting new people, but will always be

connected with God and the Eucharist. This is never more clear to me than when I receive Him and reflect on my love.

Thank you so much and have a great day!