

And so today we come to our last day. Now I went back and forth on what topic I was going to cover today. I thought about talking on why we should say amen when we receive the Eucharist, I thought about talking on how the Eucharist has developed over the centuries, or even about God's love found within the Eucharist, of course all of these are great topics, but unfortunately I could really only choose one. As I was just about to pick one something happened. A quite little high school girl ended up picking for me.

Last week we had Ariana Fryer give a personal witness talk about the power of the Eucharist and her faith. Unbeknownst to her she was literally rewriting and my entire talk today. Now if you haven't heard or read her talk I encourage you to go and read it on our website. It was by far the best one we have had yet, and that includes myself.

However there was one line from her talk that struck me, and its what I want to focus on today. At the very end of her talk she said "I'm not exactly sure what Fr. Adam was hoping for you all to get out of this, but I hope I've accomplished it. I do know one thing though. I actually got quite a bit out of this myself."

This got me thinking as to what exactly did I want you to get out of this. At first I thought that by doing this it would help us all, myself included, be better able to prepare for Easter. And that by doing this we would all be drawn closer to the Eucharist. While I think those are all good goals, and I hope those things are true for all of you, it seems that after thinking about everything we've heard these last several weeks that there's still more. So now that we come to the end I ask myself once again what is it that I hoped you have gotten out of this.

My hope is that in listening to me talk that you have come to realize the depths of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. That it is in the Eucharist that our lives, our faith, our everything comes from, and it is in the Eucharist that it is all striving to return to.

I hope that by listening to Beth Best you have come to see the amazing power, realism, and literalness of the Eucharist as the true body and blood of Christ. And that you see that no corner of earth or time in history is devoid of the miraculous power of Christ found in it.

I hope that by listening to Deacon James Even that you saw the depths and beauty of the real presence of Christ found within this most

blessed sacrament. And that in that presence a deeper meaning might be found.

I hope that by listening to Deacon Chris Savage you have come to realize the history and significance of the Eucharist. That you have come to see through the scriptures that our faith has held to the reality of Eucharist since the very beginning. And that with each generation that reality becomes deeper and richer within our lives.

Ultimately what I truly hope you have all taken away from these weeks is what we heard from Ariana Fryer. I hope that through her personal testimony you have come to see not just a theology, a history, or amazing miracles from all over the world, but that you have come to see true love.

When I asked each person over these weeks to speak to you I was very specific with each one on the topic and what I wanted from them, even on how long they were allowed to talk. But with Ariana I was intentionally vague and left much of it up to her.

This is because by being vague and letting her be herself I knew two things would happen. I knew I would probably give her an ulcer from her worrying about it during the weeks leading up to it. But I also knew that by

allowing her to be herself that her talk would truly be personal one. And that her love for her faith and the Eucharist would come through without my help.

Outside of all the theology and church teaching I needed someone to show us all what a true, and personal, Eucharistic love looked like.

And so my hope is that as we come to the close of these Saturday mornings that what you take away from all this is that through the theology you now have a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist. That through the history you have come to understand more fully the depth of the Eucharist. That through the wondrous Eucharistic miracles around the world that you have once again recaptured a child like awe for what sits in front of us.

Most importantly I hope that through witnessing a personal story of love for the Eucharist and our faith that you have been inspired to respond in kind. The whole point of all of this was that each of us would grow deeper in our faith and our knowledge of the Eucharist, but all that faith and knowledge means nothing if we aren't also falling in love at the same time.