

3rd Easter B

April 19, 2015

Well. Because our youngsters preparing for First Eucharist are here today, Pope Francis [bobblehead] has stopped by to visit. "Pope Francis, are you happy to see these second graders at Mass?" (Yes!) "Holy Father, do you think they really understand the Eucharist?" (No!) "Well, Pope Francis, do you think any of us really understand the Body and Blood of Christ?" (No!) "Well, Holy Father, what should I do?" ("Preach a really long homily!") *Second graders, can you say "No"??*

But I ask you, are we adults all that different than these youngsters? Trying to understand that Jesus is real? That he is risen and alive? That He really is among us?

Doesn't every one of us wish that we could hear Jesus say to our heart, "Peace be with you?" Wouldn't we all want to actually touch the Risen Christ? *Well, we can. It's called the Mass. Seven year olds try to wrap their minds around that, and so do their parents and grandparents, and the priest too. [pause]*

And Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." "Pope Francis, should I show them my bible?" (blow flour off, drop pressed flower) Are not many of us also 7 year olds when it comes to being fed by God's inspired word? Are not too many Catholic bible covered with dust? Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures"--and he wants to do the same with us at St. Bernadette.

Second graders, we welcome you today. We bless you for your innocence. We try to imagine all that you will experience in your lifetime. May every day be "Jesus Day" for you. May Jesus feed you with his Body and Blood your entire life. May the bible, his loving word, inspire and guide you.

And may we grownups realize that we are never too old to be like you, to learn to meet the Risen Jesus in our midst!

