August 22, 2021 by Father Mike Tobin.

Recently, Archbishop Kurtz gave us four reasons folks come to Church when he published an article in the August 12 edition of the **Record**. He wishes to foster participation in church, but he has a concern about consumerism. He wrote, “We come to the Eucharist not simply as consumers looking for good music or good homilies or good church architecture or good social interactions.”

What is missing from the list of items consumed by those who come to Church is the Eucharist. “The **Eucharist** is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that united in His one Divine Person is really, truly, and substantially present. This is the summation of twenty centuries of doctrine and Tradition of Scripture, the Church Doctors and theologians, Papal Encyclicals, and Councils of the Catholic Church” – see [www.knightsoftheholyeucharist.com/holy-eucharist](http://www.knightsoftheholyeucharist.com/holy-eucharist).

Although it is the constant teaching of twenty centuries, why do Catholic consumers ignore the Eucharist? Perhaps it is true that we seek satisfaction from manmade gods that we can consume and evaluate easily. Rather than an article for consumption, The Eucharist judges us as we will see. The Archbishop calls us to renew our reverence for the Holy Eucharist which is we are told by the Church, “the source and summit of our worship.” The prayer we make at the altar table is not merely the prayer of the priest that we listen to, but if we choose, we can make that prayer our own.

Of course, preparing ourselves by frequent confession is also necessary. We are fooling ourselves that Jesus is all smiles and no judgment so that we can carelessly approach communion without any consequences. No. Sacred scripture warns us that we will be punished for our sins that we have not admitted before God. Unless our spirit is cleansed, Jesus says, we shall not have life within us.

It is also necessary the Archbishop tells us to be mindful of our private and public stances on Church matters. Archbishop clarified that the next meeting of bishops in November is not intended to identify one public sinner like say an elected official and call him or her out. Individual bishops are called to identify officials whose public stances are contrary and speak to them privately.

In conclusion, the sin we commit matters. Our attitude and actions bring us into or out of communion with the Church. Let us come before the Sacred Eucharist cleansed in mind, body and soul of serious, grave sin. While there is always the chance of being punished for our hypocrisy by the Lord Jesus, it is far more likely that the Eucharist will heal our brokenness by strengthening our faith, fortifying our hope and perfecting our love. In combination with frequent confession, the Eucharist is precisely the medicine the doctor has ordered to cure us.

Instead of evaluating the Mass today like a consumer, let the Lord Jesus evaluate each of us probing for our hypocrisy. Then the same spirit of Jesus can heal what is broken. We depart then not righteously indignant that the preaching was boring, the music flat, the architecture ugly and the fellowship cold. Even if God forbid all that were true, our Lord and Savior reigns as judge and healer. He consumes us and not the other way around!