



From a Bishop's Journal (702)

Glorious Christ Living in our World

The Second Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in preparation of the Year 2000 Jubilee took place ten years ago,. May this anniversary remind us the wonder of the Eucharist.

A Wonderful Revelation

So many wonderful things were accomplished, on the occasion of the second Diocesan Eucharistic Congress that took place at Maliseet. With help from the parishes of the Southern Victoria Deanery, the *People of the Beautiful River* shared with us significant highlights of the native spiritual tradition, and they shared with us the experiences and prayers of their own milieu. And once again we were able to deepen our understanding the marvel that is the Eucharist, and this, thanks to the instructions of Bishop Emeritus Gérard Dionne. My contribution, at the close of the Congress, was to share with the assembled people the glorious names found in the Book of Revelation, ascribed to Jesus.

To Remember Him

One of the major aims of the five Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses was to help us prepare spiritually for the great Jubilee of the Year 2000. On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, we want to get to know him more and more, to know his life, his message, his words, and his viewpoints. Not only do we want to get to know him, but we also seek to recognise him as the One who walks among us, we want to acknowledge and praise him, and continue together in his mission of love. I invite you to read and share the gospels with others. It would be a good idea to begin with one of the gospels, in which you will discover the presence of Jesus, and you will better appreciate the Good News that Jesus brought us from his Father. In this way you will be able to better acknowledge his deep love for each one of us and for all humankind.

The Revelation of John

A few years ago, the School of Faith, French Sector, sponsored a bible weekend on the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. This book looks like a fifth gospel that shows us a glorious Christ living in our world. Let us remember the title of this book: *The Revelation of John*, the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave John to show his servants what must soon take place. He made this known by sending His angel to His servant John, who witnessed to the Word of God and to Jesus Christ, and to all that he saw.

Glorious Names

Saint John revealed to us many glorious names of Jesus. Through these names we can consider who Jesus is. John calls Jesus the Christ who was anointed by God; Jesus is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, ruler of the kings of the earth. Jesus loves us. He freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom of priests serving his God and Father. Jesus is the Son of Man clothed in a long robe with a golden sash across his chest. Jesus is the first and the last, the alpha and the omega. Jesus is the living one. He was dead and now he is alive for ever and ever. He has the keys of death and of Hades.

A Multitude of Symbols

Using symbols, John compares the seven Churches to stars, and the members to lampstands. He writes that Jesus holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. Even today, Jesus holds our Church and walks among us. The procession we experienced recalls this wonderful presence of Jesus among us, every day. Jesus was dead and is alive again. Son of Man, he is the Son of God. He is the truth, the sharp two-edged sword. He has eyes like flames of fire, his feet are like burnished bronze. John writes: Jesus is the one who examines our minds and hearts, he is more present to us than we are to ourselves; he knows us and he loves us. In order to express the fullness of Jesus' divinity, Saint John says that Jesus possesses the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. And we're not finished: John shows us Jesus as the Holy One, the true one who has the key of David, who opens and no one can shut, who shuts and no one can open. You remember the Gospel: Jesus says, *I am the way, the truth, and the life.* [John 14:6] John reminds us of this fact.

Meaningful Words

What a revelation of Jesus this is! What a revelation it was to John! What a revelation it is to us today! Jesus is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation. In this beautiful Tobique country, among the people of the Beautiful River, it is good to contemplate and worship Jesus as the origin of creation. At every Mass we say these words, *This is the Lamb of God.* These words were first spoken by John the Baptist, and then by John the Evangelist. In the Book of Revelation, John writes that Jesus is the Lamb of God, [Revelation 15: 3] but he also calls him the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the root of David. [Revelation 5: 5] Jesus is called the Lord, King of kings and Lord of lords [Revelation 17:14] who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron; [Revelation 12:5] he is the Word of God. [Revelation 19:13]

Understanding Holy Scripture

Do not be afraid to read the holy Gospels, to share these holy scriptures; don't be afraid to read the Book of Revelation. It isn't a secret, it is a revelation, not only for the first readers of Saint John, but for all people. Jesus is the living one. I hope that you will deepen every day these holy scriptures so as to get to know Jesus Christ our leader, our way, our life, better and better, because if we do not know these Holy Scriptures it is very hard to know Jesus. There is a saying to the effect that *Not to know Holy Scripture is not to know Jesus.* I know that there are different ways to discover Jesus Christ, but if Jesus is not better known in our country and elsewhere, it is because we ignore the Bible. Could a second reason be the fact that we do not share with others our enthusiasm for Jesus

Christ? And could a third reason be that our lives do not witness to Jesus? May we continue to grow in our faith in Jesus, through prayer and the study of Holy Scripture.

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