

WHAT WOULD DO IF JESUS CHRIST SHOWED UP AT ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH DURING MASS TODAY?

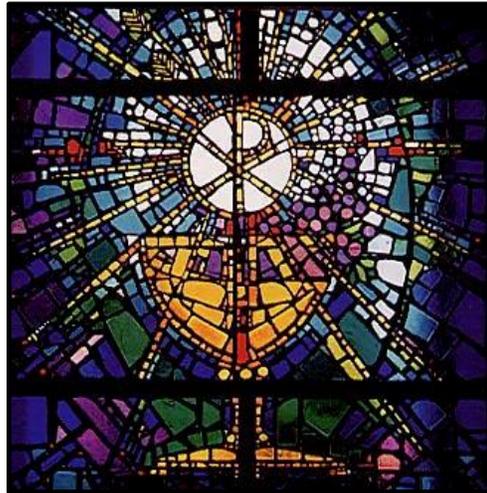
(from the STM Bulletin - November 19, 2017)

No, really. Think about it a minute. Jesus Himself shows up, walks down a side aisle, stands in the flesh near the altar, and says something really ... ordinary, like "Hi. Here I AM." What *would* you do?!

Gasping in speechless awe and wonder is likely. Calling out "Oh, my God" and meaning it, literally, could be common. Falling down in adoration before the Lord God would be very natural. We kneel at Mass when the Blessed Sacrament held up before us because **Jesus IS here**. We kneel because:

- We adore the King of the Universe.
- We behold the Lamb of God.
- We love the Lord our God.
- **We are encountering Jesus Christ.**

Unleash the Gospel declares that we are to undergo a "conversion ... such that every person at every level of the Church, through **personal encounter with Jesus Christ**, embraces his or her identity as a son or daughter of God" (p.3). The Christian life is "... **a series of encounters with Jesus, especially through prayer and the liturgy**, which continually deepen our relationship with him" (p.13). We encounter Jesus in a very special way during the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass.



When we look upon the Consecrated Host, we can imagine it as a window to heaven. Some saints had mystical experiences before the Sacrament, seeing Jesus and being graced with a sure knowledge of His Real Presence.

With our hearts open to Our Lord, we can look through the Host, beyond the image of the crucified Christ hung above our altar, and also know the loving gaze of the Father.

What would *you* do? Embrace the encounter with the Real Presence of Christ the King with all your heart. Respond with awe knowing that Jesus, accepting His Father's will, was born a man to suffer, die and rise for the salvation of each one of us. Give thanks for the gift of the Bread of Life. Kneel in wonder that the Risen Christ, who now sits in majesty at the Father's right hand, is also here with us just as he had promised:

"And behold, I am with you always"

(Matt 28:20)