



OCTOBER 2022

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1329

“The Lord’s Supper, because of its connection with the supper which the Lord took with his disciples on the eve of his Passion and because it anticipates the wedding feast of the Lamb in the heavenly Jerusalem. [Cf. 1 Cor 11:20; Rev 19:9.] The Breaking of Bread, because Jesus used this rite, part of a Jewish meal when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread, [Gal 3:27] above all at the Last Supper. [Cf. Mt 26:26 ; 1 Cor 11:24 .] It is by this action that his disciples will recognize him after his Resurrection, [Cf. Lk 24:13-35.] and it is this expression that the first Christians will use to designate their Eucharistic assemblies; [Cf. Acts 2:42, 46 ; Acts 20:7, 11.] by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him. [Cf. 1 Cor 10:16-17.] The Eucharistic assembly (synaxis), because the Eucharist is celebrated amid the assembly of the faithful, the visible expression of the Church. [Cf. 1 Cor 11:17-34.]”

Vocabulary:

Synaxis (pronounced “sin-axe-iss”) – from Greek, meaning “an assembly that meets for worship,” especially a congregation in the early Church gathered for a liturgical service.

Quote: “When you have received Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence.”

- *St. Francis de Sales*

Reflection: Jesus is as present today in the breaking of the bread at the Sunday Mass as he was to that early gathering in Emmaus, when his disciples recognized him at the “breaking of the bread.” Do I recognize Jesus present today at the breaking of the bread as the early disciples did in Jerusalem?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see you not only in the breaking of the bread at Mass, but in the neighbors whom I serve as a Vincentian. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.