



Questions are a form of revelation. They reveal the curiosity of a person. They reveal the existence of a need. They reveal a basis for confidence between two or more people or groups. They reveal a calculated pursuit of information, and perhaps accusation. They reveal a willingness to be helpful. They reveal the social character of sharing life with others, sometimes as a blessing and sometimes as an essential aspect of life. Here is the first of a series of questions raised by our Religious Education children/young people recently.

Question 1 Why do other religions (or other Christian traditions) not take our belief and practice of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist which we take at Mass?

Very good question. The majority of people across the world do not believe in Jesus as the Son of God who became one with us as our Lord and Savior. For these people this has never been present to them.

For those who are Christian, that is followers of Jesus Christ, their particular tradition began in the early sixteenth century or later. For the most part, each of these traditions separated itself from the history and practice of belief and acceptance of Jesus held by the Catholic tradition (both East and West) from the time of the Apostles.

In the United States, in particular, we call this difference denominations. Over time, especially since the 1500's and later, various controversies raised questions or did not accept the way questions were answered. Depending upon the way to which any of these denominations or groups have understood and applied the teaching of the Bible, accepted Christian history and the consistency of emphasis across history in living

the teachings of Jesus differences or dissent from the Catholic Church have come about. We know that the Catholic Church existed 1500 years before the denominations and stands as the most consistent and continuous witness to the teachings of Jesus through the Apostles. This is particularly true in regard to the Holy Eucharist.

Some Christian denominations accept Jesus words at the Last Supper but not the practice of the action when He said them. Some say what Jesus did was to be imitated as a memory of Jesus or as a symbol which each person takes into his/her heart but Jesus is already there because of the person's faith. Even among the denomination there is disagreement over the meaning of "Communion". None of the denominations accept the "sacrifice" dimension of Jesus' Body and Blood in the Eucharist. One of the major differences and distinctions between the Catholic Church and the denominations is the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. For Catholics the Eucharist the central and centering action of our profession of Faith and our living practice of the Faith. Jesus's real presence in the Eucharist is already a pledge of heaven itself, and Faith lived must witness and reflect it.

This is also the reason for the central importance of Sunday. It is more than "The Lord's Day". It is the "little Easter" in each week. It is the primary "Holy Day" of Catholic worship and gathering as church.

HURRICANE HARVEY

The Archdiocese of Omaha is asking every parish to take up a special collection the weekend of September 9 and 10. This collection will go to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The devastation was so great and the need so dire. If you can help, please make checks payable to Catholic Charities. All monies collected will go directly to help these people in Texas.