



Sothebys.com

## The Real Presence-Saint Peter

Saint Peter is an everyman's man or every person's person. He is so human and so real. What you see is what you get with Peter. No dissemblance and no filters. This is maybe why Jesus chose him to be the leader of the apostles and leader of the Church.

But because Peter is so real, he also provides some cringe worthy moments in the scriptures. Holy Week is full of them, and the Last Supper is no exception. When Jesus started to wash the feet of the other apostles, Peter was taken aback. The teacher, the master, and the Christ washing the feet of his own disciples how unseemly. Peter was not going to allow Jesus to wash his feet.

When Jesus calls him over, Peter tells him oh, that's okay, you really don't have to wash my feet. Jesus has to put him on the spot, so Peter finally agrees. But Peter can't be like everyone else; if Jesus is going to wash his feet, he should wash his hands and head as well. This way Peter will stand out from the rest.

As usual, Jesus must correct Peter. Jesus explains to his apostles that to be his disciple means having a willingness to serve others even the least among us.

At dinner that evening Jesus goes on to offer himself completely in the blessing and breaking of the bread and wine. When he states that this is his body and his blood, the disciples would have understood that Jesus was offering his very self, the gift of his very life.

The complete giving of Jesus in the Eucharist is his very body and blood, his real presence. Communion is the real presence of Jesus Christ, his tangible presence. At the same time, we can also say that the reality of who Jesus is, is also found in the Eucharist.

This means that the Eucharist is the fullness of his divinity and humanity. It is his existence as Christ from before time, and his human existence 2,000 years ago, and for all eternity. It is his presence in the heavens and earth and his presence in the new heavens and earth. The fullness of his life, his love, his laughter, and his tears are found in the real presence. His mercy, his healing, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension are also part of Communion. Every real thing about Jesus Christ is in the Eucharist. His real presence contains multitudes.

Peter's ability to be so real shows us an important aspect of Communion which is also a challenge for most of us. When I celebrate and receive Communion, how real do I allow myself to be? Am I bold enough to bring my real presence, my real self, to the Lord? Can I offer the Lord all that is good within me and all that is not so good?

I think this is what Peter got so right. He brought forth his real self and humanity to Jesus. For good and bad, Peter always kept it real, he did not try to be someone else. Perhaps because of this, he is the Rock on which the Church has been built.

Peter shows us that the more real and human we are with the Lord then the more real he is with us. If we offer our real presence when receiving the **Real Presence**, we can share in the multitudes that is our Lord, Jesus Christ's, reality.

*A Personal Reflection by Reverend David Brzoska, M.Div., MA.SS.,  
Chaplain  
Saint John Vianney Center*

*Image: Sothebys.com*