

From Your Servant Leader

August 24, 2017

In St. Louis this week as well as in about a third of the country, solar eclipse fever gripped us all on Monday. Otherwise sane and rational adults couldn't wait to go outside and look up at the sun in funny glasses. All because the moon journeyed between the earth and the sun, and for many that's reason enough for a party.

Millions travelled to distant states to watch the one-hour event. Hotels and rental cars were sold out at premium prices. Special air flights were scheduled to get a closer view. Schools were cancelled. Highway traffic stopped. Business pretty much halted. Churches, not missing a beat, rented out parking spaces for the solar viewers. You would have thought that Jesus Christ himself was making an appearance.



But wait a minute. Imagine what it would be like if we knew that Christ was indeed coming to a specific time and place...

Likely we could not build enough planes, trains and automobiles to bring everyone to the appointed location. News crews would rent all of the nearby living space and satellite feeds. Instead of preparing by buying funky glasses, we would all be looking for times and locations for reconciliation sacraments. Extra Masses would be held for the last-minute prayerful. Cell phone traffic would burst from people telling each other of their love or asking for forgiveness. Would Christ appear in a stadium, or in a field, or on a hilltop in the middle of nowhere (soon to be the most famous place on the planet)? Would he come to the United States, the United Nations, or to a country that may not currently even be Christian? Talk about a statement appearance!

Of course we don't know when or how He will appear. So perhaps we should assume it will be soon, and that we won't have a lot of time to cast aside all our sinful behaviors and repent. We may not have time to contact all our loved ones. While the eclipse date was known for months, Christ could appear right now without advance publicity. Maybe we should prepare right now as well.

Will we as Vincentians be able to tell Him how we have served the Lord and the poor? Did we help spread The Holy Word? Did we help others find food and housing, comfort or peace? Did we help them find Christ?

This eclipse can teach the faithful not to ask, "Will you be ready when He comes again?" The better question is, "Are you ready for His coming -- right now?"

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave