

Reflections on our Eucharistic Processions, Part III

by Deacon George Kain



On June 11, 2025, St. Mary hosted our second Eucharistic Procession in as many years. The Diocese of Bridgeport sponsored this procession, as well as those in 18 other locations this month. This was the third series of processions in the last year or so, covering nearly every church and cemetery in the diocese. For those who were in attendance, the processions were glorious, uplifting, and grace filled. For us at St. Mary, we processed down Catoonah St, on Main St., and ended in Ballard Park for a short Benediction before reversing the route and coming back, to St. Mary. Between the 2 processions held at St. Mary, over 500 parishioners participated on 2 beautiful days where we gave glory to our Lord and Savior.

As I was able to participate in every procession in the diocese, occasionally a participant asked me, “why are we doing this all over the diocese?” It’s a valid question, but one that can be answered quite easily. Why NOT give glory to God for what he has done for us? Why NOT celebrate the joyous triumphant victory of our Lord over death, and which provides us with the gift of eternal life, now, through the Eucharist?

In one moment during our procession in New Caanan this year, a driver in a vehicle approaching the procession from the opposite direction and startled by the size of the gathering, stopped me and asked me, “did someone die?” I responded, “yes, he died 2,000 years ago and he rose again on the third day as he promised, and we are here today to thank him for the gift of eternal life through the Eucharist and his life, death and resurrection.” I can only hope that the startled look on her face gave her reason to pause and consider the importance of what our Lord has done for all of us. This was exactly one of the desired effects of holding these processions.

And isn’t that exactly why we gather every Sunday (or even every day) to thank the Lord for his promise and gift of eternal life? The truth is that we could never thank him enough for so great a gift. Which of us deserves such a gift? Not me. We must realize and be grateful for the tremendous sacrifice of our Lord for all of us. Through him we have the promise of eternal life. How little a sacrifice it was for us to create a procession for all to come to know how blessed we are. May the Lord bless all of those who participated, and who were witnesses to our risen Lord during these processions. May we all come to appreciate the gift of eternal life offered to us through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.