

Jesus is with Us! (Children's Homily)

Good morning children of St. John Vianney!

Today, in the gospel we see that Jesus chooses his 12 disciples. It says that he did it for 3 reasons.

1. that they would go forth and preach - that means teach people
2. that they would cast out demons.
3. and the third reason he chose these apostles, is so that they could be with him.

Today we wish to talk about this last reason: that they could be with him.

Jesus has chosen, not just those apostles, but each one of you as well.

He chose you when you were baptized, and he did it so that you could be with him.

Now there are two different ways that we are with Jesus,

what are they? Can you name the ways that Jesus is with us?

A. he is in our souls - this is spiritually, he is with us.

B. he is with us 'bodily', in the flesh, in Holy Communion.

First, he is with us in Holy Communion in the greatest way,

on earth. Even though it is under the appearance of bread,

we are actually touching Jesus when we receive him.

So, what should we do when we receive him?

Kneel down and talk to him!

And this is also why, after Mass, it is good to kneel and talk to Jesus a little more, and thank him for coming to us;

thank him for offering himself on the cross for us;

'Jesus, be with me all day today,' we can say.

So we should speak very tenderly to the Lord when we receive him in the Holy Eucharist.

My mother and father used to put their heads down on the pew, and cover their face with their hands, to have a private moment to talk to Jesus.

Some people like to kneel down at the Communion rail to receive, and you can do that if you want to.

Now, the other way that Jesus is with us -
he is with us all the time in spirit, in our souls.
So, when we wake up in the morning, he is in our soul:
'Good morning dear Jesus!', we can say.

When we are walking to the bus, or to school, or to the park -
he is with us, he is in us.
Now don't you think we should talk sometimes to him?
Of course, I don't mean just you children, I mean everyone:
we should often tell this Lord that we love him.

When we have a problem too -
if we feel afraid, or nervous: 'Jesus, help me,' 'I believe in you!' 'guide me,'
A little boy told me that he only talks to Jesus when he needs help,
but he knew that he needs to speak to him often.

I've seen baseball and football players make the sign of the cross when they are playing, to ask God's help;
I know some people who have their own special phrases they say to the Lord during the day.
One person likes to say: 'Lord help me, for I am a sinner.'
Another person just says: 'Jesus I love you.' 'Jesus I love you, many times.

So, it is good if we come up with our own special short-prayer to say often during the day to the Lord.
This will help us to be happy and make things go well for us.
This way, we can remember that this dear Savior is with us not only in Holy Communion,
but in all of the activities of our day.