

Hello EDGE Families,

This upcoming semester we will be looking over the Apostolic Exhortation *Veneremur Cernui*, written by our newly retired Bishop Thomas Olmsted.

Here are some passages within in it:

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

1. I wish to speak to you about the most important and central teaching of our faith. What I share is “not too high for you.” It is not theology that is only meant for theologians and priests. This concerns the most important reality of our lives – the saving presence of our Lord. This is not a teaching that can be dumbed down or over simplified. This is a truth that we need to be clear and certain about. Be bold, then! Take up and read, drink in the truth, discuss and share it with others and allow Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, to conform you further to Himself and fulfill the deepest longings of your heart.

(paragraph 1)

“Today we find ourselves in a crisis; many anxieties, uncertainties and doubts assail us from every side... **the Church at large is experiencing a grave crisis of faith in the Eucharist.** This crisis has inflicted additional significant implications for authentic Christen discipleship; namely, abysmal Mass attendance, declining vocations to marriage, priesthood, and religious life, waning Catholic influence in society. As a nation we are experiencing a torrent of assaults upon the truth The Gospel message has been watered down or replaced with ambiguous worldly values. **Many Christians have abandoned Christ and His Gospel and turned to a secular culture for meaning that cannot provide and to satiate a hunger that it can never satisfy.**”

(paragraph 7)

Not only has our former bishop call for attention for the Eucharist but also the USCCB has called for a Eucharistic Revival:

Why Now? BECAUSE THE CHURCH NEEDS HEALING. AND THE WORLD NEEDS THE CHURCH Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal.

*In the midst of these roaring waves, **Jesus is present**, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world.*

How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith—the Holy Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.

- USCCB National Eucharistic Revival

We look forward to this semester to really dive in the meaning of the Eucharist but to also to try to seek it whenever we have an opportunity.

EDGE Veneremur Cernui Semester Outline

Aug 25th	Intro into Veneremur Cernui
Sep 1st	The Eucharist - Mystery to be Revered
Sep 8th	The Mass as the New Exodus from Slavery of Sin
Sep 15th	The Mass Eternal Memorial of Christ's Sacrifice
Sep 22nd	Hold Nothing Back from Christ
Sep 29th	EDGE To Assist In BLUE MASS
Oct 6th	NO EDGE - Fall Break
Oct 13th	NO EDGE - Fall Break
Oct 20th	The Graces of Holy Communion
Oct 27th	Halloween Social
Nov 3rd	"One Body and One Spirit in Christ"
Nov 10th	Faith Perceives What our Sense Fail to Grasp
Nov 17th	Worthy Reception of Holy Communion
Dec 1st	Make every Sunday "The Day of the Lord"
Dec 8th	NO EDGE - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Dec 15th	Daily Mass/Inviting Others - Advent Social

Veneremur Cernui - Introduction (*par 1-9*)

The Eucharist - Mystery to be Revered (*pg 6, par 10-13*)

- Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist

The Mass as the New Exodus from Slavery of Sin (*pg 6, par 14-18*)

- Jesus brought Passover to its ultimate fulfillment at the Last Supper

The Mass: Eternal Memorial of Christ's Sacrifice (*pg 10, par 27-32*)

- It is in the Eucharist where Our Lord meets us and becomes our faithful companion along every instance of our life.

Hold Nothing Back from Christ (*pg 10, par 27-32*)

- St Thomas Aquinas invites us to hold back nothing as the most appropriate response to the gift of Jesus

The Graces of Holy Communion (*pg 11, par 33-40*)

- The Eucharistic presence of Jesus is not only to be with us, but also to be our strength and nourishment.

"One Body and One Spirit in Christ" (*pg 13, par 41-46*)

- The ultimate effect of the Holy Eucharist is not only the transubstantiation of bread and wine...but the transformation of those who receive Holy Communion into "one body, one spirit in Christ"

Faith Perceives What Our Senses Fail to Grasp (*pg 14, par 47-54*)

- "But if we receive the Lord with the right dispositions, God's grace will strengthen our resolve to follow, love and imitate Him.

Worthy Reception of Holy Communion (*pg 16, par 55-68*)

- "The celebration of the Eucharist, however, cannot be the starting-point for communion; it presupposes that communion already exists, a communion that it seeks to consolidate and bring to perfection." (Ecclesia et Eucharistia, no. 35)

Make every Sunday "The Day of the Lord" (*pg 20, par 70-75*)

- Have you allowed Sunday to be like the other days of the week?

Daily Mass/Inviting Others (*par 76-79 and par 85-91*)