

At a retreat I once attended, our presenters spoke about how Catholics tend not to think in terms of having a personal relationship with God. Our liturgical prayer facilitates our communal prayers and so we more readily grasp the idea of the importance of being community.

But what about a personal relationship? Let's face it: in an age of social media, mere contact through the computer qualifies as a relationship. But if we're being honest, that's not really a relationship. And a meaningful relationship demands a certain amount of personal sacrifice from both parties. For instance we have to make time for each other and be there for each other. A meaningful relationship infers that there's some desire to know the other and to make one's self known. A personal relationship calls for trust and willingness to be vulnerable. So how would you describe your personal relationship with God?

Sometimes we can think God is so far away and so different than ourselves, that a relationship is not a reality. Think again, I ask you, because God doesn't want to be merely distant and other. As people of sacraments our faith tells us that God desires to be close, to be known, to give and to receive love.

This solemnity, in which we celebrate the fact that the God who created the heavens, the universe and all it holds, comes in our midst in what once was bread and wine. His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity—100%—is made manifest for a reason: to be in personal relationship with us.

God can do all that, but still we, His children, can render that miracle and all that He wishes to do with it, powerless in a sense. First, by not believing that he's really present in this way or at least not desiring to believe. But secondly, by simply not caring that it can be the means of fostering personal relationship.

I've heard it said, and repeated to you, that if we really gave our hearts to believing that God becomes present on this altar—if we REALLY believed—we would crawl on our knees in gratitude and humility to be able to receive Him. So the question for you and me on this solemnity is firstly, do you believe or at least want to believe, that God is truly in this sacrament?

But secondly, if it's true that God makes Himself present in this way so that he can be in a deeper personal relationship with you...with YOU!...and mind you, that He allowed Himself to be utterly humiliated to do so...if that's true, that he did that so that He could be closer to you, do you in turn want to be closer? Do you want a deeper personal relationship?

But we have to ask ourselves, because to simply be indifferent about something so important won't do. Do you desire it or not?