

Revelations 6:1-17

Justin Martyr – The Celebration of The Eucharist

The Book of Revelations has probably been the most important book for musicians, writers, playwrights and movie producers than any other writing in history. “Star Wars” and “The Lord of the Rings” are just the latest. This chapter of the four horsemen has influenced movies. In the opening scene of Kenneth Branagh’s movie adaptation of the Shakespeare’s play “Much Ado About Nothing” there are four horsemen riding into the scene with exciting music and wonderful scenery. This scene has been played and used many times in old westerns.

That had been my reaction to the entire Book of Revelations when I listened to it being read by people like James Earl Jones. The power and beauty of the words and visions are exciting, terrifying and beautiful. When I was a protestant, I resisted listening to or studying interpretations of this book because I thought that the whole point to the book was being missed by doomsayers. Having become a Catholic, I have learned more about this book and have come to appreciate it as being more than an exciting work of art. Jeff Cavins series “The Great Adventure” has given me a great appreciation for the Book of Revelations. I need to watch his class on Revelations and other courses again because there is so much information to grasp.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Wikipedia -Justin Martyr was an early Christian apologist and is regarded as the foremost interpreter of the theory of the Logos in the 2nd century. He was martyred, alongside some of his students, and is considered a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The concept that the Eucharist is simply a symbol and the knowledge of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, is a central dividing issue between the Catholic Church and most Protestant Churches. This issue is a sensitive issue between my son David, who is a Presbyterian Minister, and myself. My son sees the Catholic Church as shutting out people by not allowing non-Catholics partake of the Eucharist and from the stand point of the bread and wine as being merely symbols, his reasoning makes sense. It is hard to explain that to come forward for the Body and Blood one is acknowledging his or her belief in this teaching of the Church. He and I don’t argue about it though. I do know that when I attend one of his services and communion is served, it hurts him that I do not come forward and accept this communion from his hands. And, it hurts me to hurt him. It is a divide between us that neither one of us want but cannot avoid.

It is important for Catholics, and especially Dominicans, to fully understand the significance of the Real Presence, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Eucharist to know why the Protestant argument is not solid. It is also important to appreciate and understand the emotions and that surround this issue.

Speaking about my son: I must ask for prayers for both my son and his wife Karen. They both are on dialysis. My daughter Alice will soon be donating one of her kidneys for Karen. All three need many Rosaries.