

This Sunday at the 8:30 Mass an important event occurs in the life of our Church, seven men and women will enter into full communion with the Church at Rome. This should be a moment of great joy not only in the lives of these individuals but in the lives of each one of us. For when we grow as a Church through adult conversions we know that we are doing something right. We know that like the early Church we are continuing to fulfill the command of Christ, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20.



The men and women who will be received into full communion have gone through an intensive program week after week of learning to observe all of those things Christ has commanded us. They have learned about dogma and doctrine, tradition and scripture, saints and sacraments. They have learned about Church structure, bishops and priests and deacons, religious sisters and brothers and the important role of the lay faithful. They have learned about Christian charity and virtue and they have heard from countless men and women about their love of Christ's Church. But most importantly they have demonstrated through their commitment that they are willing persevere. They are willing to persevere through good times and bad in order to be able to share with us at the table of the Lord.

Today Heaven rejoices as these men and women approach the altar of God. They were each baptized previously so they have long been members of God's family but today they get to share in the fullness of what Christ gave to Peter and the other Apostles. They have been forgiven their sins through the sacrament of reconciliation, they will be confirmed in the Faith and then they will be able to share in the Eucharist. They will share in the source and summit of our faith. They will share in what truly sets us apart from most other Christian denominations. They will share in the body and blood of the Lord. They will come forward and eat at this Heavenly banquet and to each of us should be reminded of how blessed we have been to be allowed to partake in the sacrificial offering of Christ.

So let us join the saints and angels of heaven as we welcome into our midst our brothers and sisters who will truly become more closely united with each of us through the sacraments they will receive.

In Christ,

Fr. Long