

The High Plains Preacher

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

Reality

by Fr Jim Schmitmeyer

According to researchers, it won't be long before virtual reality becomes a practical reality in our day-to-day life. For instance, today a woman can shop for a pair of shoes by trying on a pair in the store or by ordering a pair of shoes on line (only to send them back if they don't fit).

At some point in the future, she will be able to point her phone at the floor and a hologram of a pair of shoes will miraculously appear on her feet. She can then swipe the phone to change the style before adding them to her cart.

Eventually, anyone will be able to upload 3-D models of the products they want to buy. Already, furniture manufacturers are using holograms to let customers see how bookshelves and dining room tables will look in their home before they make a purchase.

When Christ appeared to his disciples after he rose from the dead, he had to convince them that he was real, that he was not a ghost. Perhaps, at some point in the future, parents will need to explain to their children that the Risen Christ was not a hologram.

If so, it will be an opportunity to teach them that "sacramental reality" is more real than virtual reality, augmented reality and even actual reality itself.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist, our encounter with Christ is just as real, just as true and just as tangible as the reality experienced by the original disciples.

For this reason, you and I gather for the Eucharist, Sunday after Sunday, to mediate on the image of a human being nailed to a Cross. We gather at the foot of the Cross, with Mary, His Mother, and the angels and saints of all times and places in order to touch, in *this* time and *this* place, our fingers to his skin, and our lips to his wounds.

"Come to me, Thomas," said the Lord in the Upper Room. "Touch the scars on my hands. Probe the wound in my side." Thomas replied: "My Lord and my God!" And so do we.

At every Mass we hear the words, "The Body of Christ." And we respond, "Amen!"

"The Blood of Christ."

"Amen! Yes! My Lord and my God. Yes! Amen!"