

First Communion: Receiving Jesus on Easter

I love the story of one of our young parishioners who at five years old came to the church by herself. Every Sunday she would faithfully come and sit in the back pew for months. At communion time she would come up and receive a blessing. Until one Sunday when she came up and would not leave after I blessed her. Instead she looked rather perturbed. I had to tell her to go back to her seat. She left with a little huff that only a 7 year old could do. After Mass she came up to me hand on her hip and said to me, “Why you didn’t give me Jesus? I wanted Jesus. Why didn’t you give me him?” I heard in the request the echo of the plea of all the souls, the reason for the church to exist and the vocation of the priesthood. I heard all this from little seven year old Elita.

We are called to give the world Jesus, the Jesus we receive. This Easter four of our young people received this Jesus in their first communion. They were prepared by Sister Mariana for six months and even had a serious examine of doctrine and knowledge about the Eucharist. They knew all their prayers and what was more important they knew why they wanted to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. The parents blessed them. They then read a beautiful pledge to the Lord to keep purity in their hearts. They promised to not smoke or drink and to come mass on Sundays. The First Communion was to change their lives. I saw the difference.

