

“The Eucharist is ‘the sum and summary of our faith,’” says Pope Benedict XVI.

The Church’s faith is essentially a Eucharistic faith, and it is especially nourished at the table of the Eucharist....For this reason, the Sacrament of the Altar is always at the heart of the Church’s life: “thanks to the Eucharist, the Church is reborn ever anew!” The more lively the Eucharistic faith of the People of God, the deeper is its sharing in ecclesial life in the steadfast commitment to the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples.

But let’s be honest. Many of the people coming to church these days do not understand the Eucharist and are simply not engaged in it. And all the cultural Catholics in our community, who aren’t even showing up, have simply walked away from the Eucharist entirely.

They have tuned the Church out, and no matter how beautifully or faithfully we celebrate the Eucharist - and we should celebrate it beautifully and faithfully – it is not getting them back. The sad irony we have found in discussion with former Catholics, who have decamped to evangelical churches, is their nearly uniform explanation, “I just felt like I wasn’t being fed.”

Taken from: *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran.

