**Communion**

**The U.S. Conference of Bishops has decided to try to shame the nation's second Catholic president, said Ed Kilgore in NYMag.com. In a stunning move, its 400 members last week voted overwhelmingly to create a "document on the Eucharist" advancing a years-long effort to deny Biden and other pro-choice Catholic politicians communion. Though administering the sacrament remains a decision for individual clergy and dioceses, "a landscape of hostile bishops or priests" could make it embarrassing for Biden -- a lifelong Catholic, who regularly attends Mass -- to practice his faith. Even the Vatican does not support this "patently bad idea," said the National Catholic Reporter in an editorial. "The Eucharist is not the reward of saints," Pope Francis said. "It is the bread of sinners." But if American bishops "go ahead and pick that fight," it will just "seal the deal on the branding of Catholicism in the United States as a culture war project" -- a hypocritical extension of Republican politics, like evangelical Protestantism -- and further empty the pews. *(The Week magazine, July 2, 2021)***

**My 5-year-old granddaughter helped me clean the communion ware several times. One Sunday, she was in a hurry to get home right after the service. I reminded her that I needed to do my task. She said, "Oh, Grandma, are we going to do God's dishes again?" *(Fran Liszewski, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**“Communion" is a liquid word that always takes the shape of its container. A scholar, whose head contains it only as “intimate rapport," contends it's the most highly desired human condition. He says, “Marriage easily survives communion without sex, but not so easily sex without communion.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**No Snacking During Service: When our grandson, Stuart Adamson, was 3, he attended church with his parents every Sunday, and Communion was served at each service. One Sunday, Stuart's impatience got the best of him, and he loudly asked his father, "Papa, when are they going to serve the treats?" His embarrassed parents quickly shushed him. *(Malcolm Adamson, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**Our daughter Nicole has brought her daughter Mary to Sunday Mass from the time Mary was a newborn. Nicole always carries Mary along with her when she goes up to receive Communion. Even before Mary could talk, she would always indicate that she wanted to receive Communion, too. Every Sunday, Mary would ask, and every Sunday her Mom would patiently explain why she could not yet receive. One Sunday last summer, three-year-old Mary walked down the aisle with Nicole as usual. This time, just as the priest was about to give the Host to Nicole, little Mary tugged at her mother's hand. "Hey, Mom," Mary asked loudly, "how about splittin' one?" (*Gerald and Therese Vanasse, in Catholic Digest)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***