

In some parts of the country, school is already starting.

Stores are having Back-to-School sales ... college students are packing up ... summer jobs are ending ... football camps are in full swing. I think for most of Michigan, school starts after Labor Day. But ... the ... clock ... is ... ticking.

The British poet, Alexander Pope, wrote that “A little learning is a dangerous thing.” Although the second half of that quote ... which is often missed ... encourages us to “drink deep” ... at the springs of inspiration.

For us grown-ups, it’s important to remember that learning never stops ... even when we’re out of school. An African proverb tells us that “A wise man never knows all, only fools know everything.”

And for teachers, or college students, or even those among us with lots of education, there’s the old Chinese saying: “智者不学,学者不智” (Zhizhe bu xue; xuezhe bu zhi) - which means wisdom doesn’t come from study, and scholars aren’t always wise.

Both the Old and the New Testament Lessons this weekend admonish us toward wisdom ... to seek wisdom ... and we should be able to discern that knowledge and wisdom are two totally different things ... or at least aren’t the same thing.

After all, we all know that Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge ... and after that, sin entered the world, and everything was turned upside-down.

In the Gospel, Jesus is wrapping up the well-known Bread of Life discourse ... which we have been hearing unfold for the past month. Throughout His teaching, Christ is trying to get the people to rise above where they are.

They follow Jesus because He fed them. Jesus wants them to follow Him out of Love, not necessity.

When He tries to explain just Who He is, they’ve already got Him figured out ... and God all figured out ... or so they think.

And this week, Jesus continues to invite them to a higher understanding - going so far as to foreshadow the Eucharistic feast of His Body and Blood ... and reveals the ultimate end-game of everything - Eternal life.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ - let us desire to “drink deep” at the wellspring of Salvation ... let us pray to move from knowing to understanding ... and from understanding to wisdom ... Divine wisdom. Let us utilize the infinite graces available to us in this Most Blessed Sacrament ... to transform our current existence, so that we might rise up to where Christ Himself is constantly calling us ... into the Divine Life of the Holy Trinity.