

Traveling around the world, you come across a lot of foods that look similar to something they're not. A case-in-point:

You see what looks like a filled donut with pink frosting. Must be strawberry frosting and custard on the inside ... right?

Well, in Japan, the pink frosting is shrimp flavored, the filling is cheese, and the donut is actually some kind of bread.

Not a bad taste, but just not what your eyes might have told your brain when you ordered it.

There's a saying ... "what you see is what you get" ... but in fact, what you see may not be what you think it is.

In the first reading we hear: *For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them.*

And further: *Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made.*

In essence, Saint Paul is saying that what we can know about God is apparent in observing creation – and this is true. There is an order to creation, because God creates in an orderly way. There is a certain logic and reason to knowing God.

Yet in the Gospel, Jesus speaks to the Pharisees who were anxious about cup-washing rituals and says: *Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil.*

That is, what is on the outside may look pure and clean, but what is inside is evil and corrupt. Namely, with some people, things are not always what they appear to be.

This can confuse us, and make us question everything – including God. But we are assured that God makes things about Himself evident. God is not going to trick you.

And so, as we approach this altar, to receive the sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; let us ask for a clarity of mind ... and a clarity of spirit. So that what we may have learned in the world – through the school of 'hard knocks' – may not affect our perceptions of God, or our relationship with God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... who loves us infinitely, that is, more deeply and tenderly than we can imagine ... with no strings attached, and no catches, and no hidden charges.

Let us approach our relationship with God with an openness and clarity and purity of heart ... as sons and daughters of the most high, redeemed in Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.