

The Magic Eight Ball was a toy produced starting in 1950. It was a hollow billiards 8-ball, with a 20-sided die immersed in blue ink. Of the 20 possible answers, 10 are affirmative, 5 are negative, and 5 are neither.

The five noncommittal answers are: “Reply hazy try again”, “Ask again later”, “Better not tell you now”, “Cannot predict now”, “Concentrate and ask again”.

In our modern age, it often seems nearly impossible to get a straight “yes” or “no” answer out of some people. Whether its a sales person at the store, or a politician on the television.

St. James reiterates a saying of Our Lord’s as recorded in St. Matthew’s Gospel chapter 5:

*“ let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No,’ ”*

In today’s Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus a tough question in order to test Him.

I’m not sure if they really wanted an answer to their question. It’s sort of a “darned if you do, darned if you don’t” sort of question. Yet Jesus takes their question and gives them a theological reflection on what was truly intended in the mind of God.

In other words, Jesus gives them a “Yes” so resoundingly positive, as to blow them away.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a spirit of Integrity ... so that we might let our ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and our ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ May we persevere in living our lives for Christ Jesus the Lord ... He who is our way, our truth, and our life.