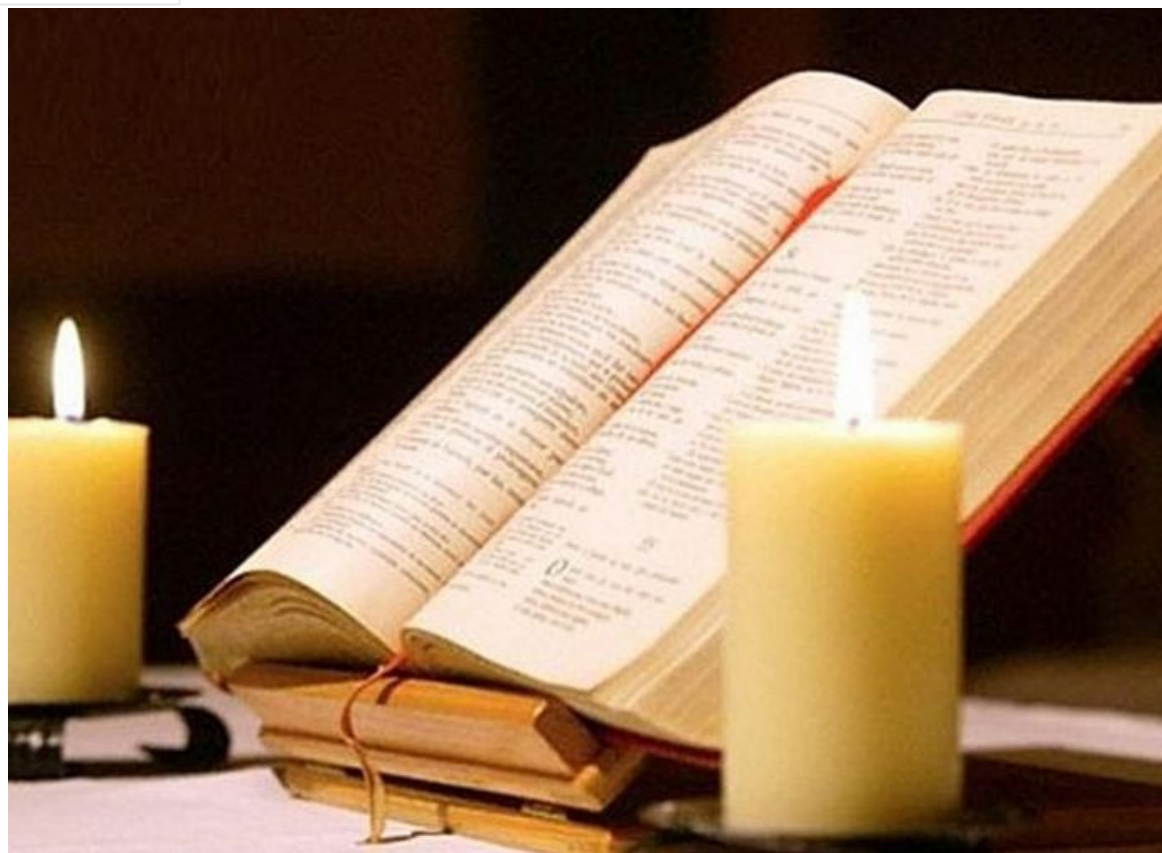


GOSPEL PEARLS

The Sacraments are precious

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23_06_2020



Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the Law and the Prophets. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few." (Matthew 7: 6, 12-14)

Jesus recommends the disciples use prudence in administering His sacraments to people unworthy of receiving them. In particular, the Eucharist must be granted only to those who are in a state of grace with God, that is, without mortal sin. Otherwise, we condemn them instead of helping them, even if some people might think it is perfectly fine to do so. So let us pray for priests and Christians, in general, so that they do not fear backlash or ridicule for simply remembering what Jesus said in the Gospel.