

WHAT IF...?

The preached Word reveals and affirms the very best of human ideals and longings placed by God in the human heart. The preached Word, mediated by the Spirit, inspires us to live, move, and have our very being in Christ. Through grace, it changes lives.

Unfortunately, preaching in our day can lose its savor, become formulaic and uninspired leaving the hearer empty.

Bishops, priests, and deacons bear responsibility for preaching at Mass. How can we enhance the preaching of the Word? Well, what if?

What if, after this Year of St. Paul, the Church Universal focused a year on preaching in the Eucharistic assembly?

What if, in that year of preaching, priests and deacons together with their bishop studied what matters in order to preach better?

What if, in that year of preaching, priests and deacons with their bishop met with the laity to listen to their struggles? They could discuss how preaching might inspire the laity to be a leaven for the world, bringing the Gospel values to the questions of the times.

What if, in that year of preaching, there would be a thorough exploration of the catechetical potential of the Sunday homily?

If all these "what ifs" were realized then the new springtime for Christianity about which the Holy Father speaks could burst forth and bloom throughout the Church, renewing the Church, strengthening evangelization, intensifying catechesis, and enhancing discipleship.

What you have just read is a summary of the "intervention" (speech) of Tucson Bishop Gerald Kicanas at the current Synod of Bishops. Wouldn't this be remarkable? Could projects like these happen, even if next year were not specifically dedicated to the preached Word?