

**Inner Transformation**      Christmas Weekday      Monday, January 7, 2019      1 Jn  
3:22—4:6;      **Mt 4:12-17, 23-25**      (St. Raymond of Penyafort, priest)      (We are also being  
invited to join with Jesus in the gift of our own totality.)

**“A great crowd from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.”**

This is the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, and it began with obvious changes; people **“who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics came to him, and he cured them all.”**

This created of course great controversy and a great following. Later this following would become a big problem because his primary goal was not the curing of bodies or minds or even souls. **His real goal was the transformation of the entire earth.** And although sickness and disease of every kind are all signs of what is wrong, they are symptomatic. They are not the cause of the problem. As Jesus’ mission matured, he had to address **the real issues, which are the ill will of people, the malice, the lack of goodwill toward all.** Ultimately this is the issue he had to address; and **the more he addressed it, the less popular he became,** the more people fell away. They were there for what you might call the externals. They were there for the so-called low fruit.

But when it came to the inner transformation that Jesus was trying to work, the submission to the will of the Father, the willingness to do whatever was required in obedience to God, the idea of universal love of all humanity, when he preached this it was another story. **And it led to his cross. But even there on the cross he stood in the breach and he gave of himself,** which is what he was teaching all along was needed. He became the exemplar in his gift of totality, of total self. And it is this that we enjoy and receive when we come to the table of the **Eucharist. We are being fed with the totality of his gift of himself.** And as we take the Eucharist, we are also being **invited to join with him in the gift of our own totality.**