

Homily Feast of Corpus Christi June 3rd 2018

Introduction

Today is the feast of Corpus Christi or the Mass. All three scripture readings today add three different dimensions of the Mass: They are known as the three "P"s POWER PRESENCE and PROMISE.

CENTER

First the power of the Mass and a brief trip to the Jerusalem .The letter to the Hebrews gives us a snapshot of the Temple liturgy on the day of Atonement ,Yom Kippur and the ritual slaying of bulls and goats .The Mass is a true sacrifice by Christ and the fulfillment of all the Old Testament ritual sacrifices as well .The Mass makes present Christ's powerful unique Calvary sacrifice. This enables us to add our prayers to His.

In today's Gospel reading we go from the Jerusalem Temple to the Last Supper. Jesus says "This is my Body,this is my Blood."Here Christ is uniquely present for us in the Mass. When we come to Church Christ is uniquely

here. We don't have to hope Christ will be present. The Eucharist is the unique place of His presence. And Christ will abide with us until the end of time. Who knows what changes will take place in the future in Catholic Church? There will always be a Tabernacle. It is the abiding presence of Christ in all our joys and sorrows with us in our in our life's journey .The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Christ's presence for us.

The Eucharist is also the place of our promise to be faithful, to be loyal to Christ and to His Church. If we receive Eucharist on the tongue we are promising that our tongue will not lie, deceive, slander, gossip or speak in an un-Christian way .If we receive Communion in our hand we are promising we will not turn our hands to violence or destruction but will use them to build up the kingdom.

When we receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in our hand , both ancient gestures and commitment , we are making a recommitment to Christ , an affirmation a renewal of our Christian identity so when we

say "AMEN" we are not only making an affirmation of faith (I believe) but also a promise to follow Christ faithfully . The Mass is the place of promise, God's promise to us of future glory our promise of identity and our promise of fidelity .POWER-PRESENCE- and FIDELITY. AMEN