

Corpus Christi Year B 2018

From the day of the Lord's resurrection, Easter Sunday to date, the mother Church has placed in our presence and for our renewal, a number of feasts and solemnities. Indeed, it all started as such, from the Maundy Thursday with the mandate to love, the institution of the ministerial priesthood, and the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Next was the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist on the cross wherein Jesus was both the priest and the victim for the offering (Good Friday). Then came Easter – all of which you are his witnesses.

Recently, we have also celebrated the Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost (the feast of the fifty days or the descent of the Holy Spirit); the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ – commonly called the Corpus Christi.

Next Sunday, if God gives us life and strength, we shall be celebrating the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which indeed is our own parish feast day. In all these, the Mother Church leads her children through these solemn moments in order to joyfully keep them pure in prayers and eager in the works of charity with their focus on Christ Jesus, the Lord. So that as they participate in all these mysteries of our sanctifications, they may constantly be reborn and renewed as sons and daughters of God. With the renewal constantly at work, they may be fully refilled with the grace of the children of God – all to the glory of God and our salvation.

Today we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, the feast of the body and blood of Christ, the sacrament of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine. It is a sacrament because of the outward sign of bread and wine. It is the body and blood of Christ because Christ teaches so. John 6:35-68; Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:19.

Jesus warned his disciples and us that: "Amen! Amen!! I say to you. Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him or her up on the last day...Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood dwell in me and I in them..." John 6:54-57. In putting this to practice, Jesus offered himself on the cross at Calvary to the Father for our salvation. In that sacrifice, Jesus was both the priest and the victim of that offering. At the institution of the Eucharist on the night before he was to suffer, Jesus commanded his disciples and his church to "Do this in memory of me". Luke 22:19 And Paul testified to the Corinthians on the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist. 1Corinthians 11:17-33

May this be clearer to us that all who believe in the Christian faith do so because they believe in the Resurrection of Christ. But you are Catholics because you believe in the Holy Eucharist. You believe not only in the resurrection, but you also believe in the suffering and

the death of Christ. You have a share in it all so that your resurrection Christ may be complete. You believe in the institution of the Catholic ministerial priesthood and their office in leading the church to the fulfillment of the Lord's command: "Do this in memory of me". Luke 22:19 For on the cross at Calvary through his passions and death, Jesus offered himself to the Father as the sacrifice of expiation for our salvation, so also at mass the priest by the power of God changes bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Simply stated: Jesus is the victim of our covenant with the Father. The Eucharist is one of the many ways he avails his presence to his church. John Paul II of the happy memory in November 1994 explained this sacrament to the church. He testified: "in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the savior, who took flesh in Mary's womb two thousand years ago, continues to offer himself to humanity as the source of "divine life". Tertio Millennio Adveniente 55.

On reflecting on the many ways Christ's body is made present to his church, we first recall the son of God, the son Mary, Joseph's son who lived in Palestine two thousand years ago whose memory is still flesh among his people; truly divine, truly human. We recall his body the Church who bears his presence till the end of time. We recall the Holy Eucharist which is our sacrifice of thanks giving, food for pilgrims and missionaries: our communion with the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, with the living the dead and the unborn. We recall each Christian who at Baptism became the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. 1Corinthians 16:19. The churches response to the indwelling of Christ is to heed his new commandments of love and unity. John 13:34; John 17:21 "All the Lord has said, we will heed and do". By this everyone will know that we are his disciples if we love one another.

Mission: pray with John 13:17-34