

Solemnity of the Corpus Christi, Sunday, 18 June 2017

“The cup of blessing that we bless is it not the sharing of the Blood of Christ? And the bread that we break, is it not the partaking of the Body of the Lord.” I Cor. 10:16

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, which commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus Christ gave us this sacrament at the Last Supper when he said to His Apostles, *“This is my body... this is my blood...”* Mt. 26:26 & 27 He told His disciples *“...do this in remembrance of me.”* Lk. 22:19 When He left us Himself in the Holy Eucharist, it was truly the most wonderful blessing Jesus could grant us since He is ever-present in the tabernacle in our churches. Christ is sacrificed for us at Holy Mass when the priest consecrates the bread and wine separately into the Body and Blood of Christ. He comes to us in Holy Communion. (cf. today’s **Epistle, I Cor. 11:23-9**). The threefold blessing of found in the Holy Eucharist in Jesus’ Presence, Sacrifice and Communion are gifts that we can never fully understand. Who can comprehend that Jesus is truly present **“body and blood, soul and divinity”** in the Holy Eucharist? All we can do is thank Him (Eucharist means thanksgiving) and adore Him in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Union with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

Fr. Gabriel in his book of meditations, *Divine Intimacy*, reminds us of the **“immense value”** of the Holy Eucharist: **“But in order to have a better understanding of the immense value of the Eucharist, we must go back to the very words of Jesus, most opportunely recalled in the Gospel of the day (Jn. 6: 56-59), ‘He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh my Blood, abideth in Me and I in him.’ Jn. 6: 57 Jesus made Himself our food in order to assimilate us to Himself, to make us live His life, to make us live in Him, as He Himself lives in His Father. The Eucharist is truly the sacrament of union and at the same time it is the clearest and most convincing proof that God calls us and pleads with us to come to intimate union with Himself.”** Fr. Gabriel, p. 600. Did not Jesus tell us to come to Him: *“Come to me all you that labour and are burdened and I will give you rest.”* Mt. 11:28 How blessed we are, as Dom Gueranger tells us in *The Liturgical Year Vol. 10*: **“Divine union—such is**

the dignity to which man is permitted to aspire; and to this aspiration God has responded even here below, by an invention which is all of heaven. It is today that man celebrates this marvel of God’s goodness.” Gueranger, p. 184

“O Precious, Wonderful Banquet...”

St. Thomas Aquinas tells us how very special is the Holy Eucharist: **“O precious wonderful banquet that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness. Under the Old Law, it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered up; but here Christ Himself, the true God is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it, sins are purged away, virtues are increased and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift.”** No wonder in the sixth chapter of St. John’s Gospel Jesus said: *“I am the living bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.... He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has life everlasting and I will raise him up on the last day.”* Jn. 6: 51 & 55. Only by Holy Communion will we be able to grow in grace. Those Catholics who reject the Holy Eucharist will not be saved: *“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you.”* Jn. 6:54. This life which Jesus promises to us is the life of sanctifying grace in the soul. It is the life of virtue, the forgiveness of sins and the purging away of punishment due to these sins. Those who neglect the Holy Eucharist by not going to Holy Mass will not have sanctifying grace in their souls.

Time for Repentance

Now is the time for us to repent and keep God’s commandments. Jesus promised to live in us (with His sanctifying grace) if we love Him and keep His commandments: *“If anyone love me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our abode with him.”* Jn. 14:23 Just as in life, if we do not eat food, we will die; so too, if we do not eat of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, our souls will die. Mortal sin will enter and our souls will be dead. So many people today are living in sin, and they do not realize the consequences of not partaking of the Holy Eucharist. They think that **“All is well....I am good person... I do not hurt anybody...”** They do not realize how joyful is the

life of grace and virtue when it is nourished by the Holy Eucharist. They live lives of vice and addiction and think that it is normal. Why are so many people depressed, despairing, angry and violent? Their unhappiness is a manifestation of the sickness of their souls without God. St. Augustine told us long ago that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. We need to repent as Our Lady said at Fatima: **“Many marriages are not of God... certain fashions will be introduced which will be displeasing to my Son....Most souls go to hell because of the sins of impurity... Men must stop offending God, He is too much offended by sin.”** Our Lady said this in 1917. What would she say of our generation with many sins of abortion, contraception, divorce and re-marriage, same-sex relationships and “partners”? These crimes cry to heaven for vengeance! We need to repent and tell others to repent.

Mystical Body of Christ

We are all part of the Mystical Body of Christ. If one part of the body is suffering, the whole body will suffer. If one part is diseased, the body will die. So our society is slowly dying without the life which only Jesus Christ can give. We need to spread the word to our family, our relatives, our friends, our co-workers. Pope Leo XIII said, **“If we see evil and do nothing to combat it, when we could have done something, we are just as (if not more) guilty as the perpetrators.”** We certainly should tell others not to sin. If we cannot tell them (because of their hard-heartedness), then we can pray and make reparation for them. Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: **“If people spent an hour a week in Eucharistic Adoration, abortion would be ended.”** Sin abounds because of a lack of faith and prayer. Bl. Teresa also said, **“The fruit of abortion is nuclear war.”** Isn't this the Fatima Message from Our Lady? We need to repent. She said if men do not repent, **“Russia will spread her errors...Whole nations will be annihilated ... the good will be martyred... the Holy Father will have much to suffer.”**

The loss of faith; increase of sin

History proves that when sin increases, the faith grows cold. Years ago, Masses used to be filled, the confession lines were jammed, parents had large families, the seminaries and convents were filled. What happened? People lost the faith and did not pray any more. They did not believe in the Holy Eucharist. This loss of faith, which is

catastrophic for the individual soul and for the Church, is especially evident in a denial of the Holy Eucharist. The Council of Trent says: **“If anyone denies in the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist there are truly, really and substantially contained the Body and Blood together with the Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ, but shall say that He is in it by a sign or figure or force, let him be anathema.”** (#883, 1270AS) If we want to restore the faith in the Catholic Church, we need to go to the Holy Eucharist in adoration, we need to attend Holy Mass frequently and we need to receive Holy Communion worthily. Our Lady at Fatima asked for the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays. When we restore the Holy Eucharist to the place of worship in our Churches and to the place of importance in our lives, then we will have the era of peace which Our Lady promised at Fatima: **“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and there will be an era of peace for a time.”**

“Could you not, then, watch one hour with Me?” Mt. 26:40

“... Particular attention should also be given to Eucharistic adoration, and in every diocese there should be churches or chapels specifically devoted to this purpose. I ask parishes, seminaries, religious houses and monasteries to organise periods of Eucharistic adoration, so that all have an opportunity to take part. Through intense prayer before the real presence of the Lord, you can make reparation for the sins of abuse that have done so much harm, at the same time imploring the grace of renewed strength and a deeper sense of mission on the part of all bishops, priests, religious and lay faithful.” (No. 14) From **“HOLY FATHER'S PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF IRELAND”** (3 March 2010)

How to receive Holy Communion

Bishop Athanasius Schneider in his booklet, **“Dominus Est—It is the Lord!”** pointed out historically the development of receiving Holy Communion: **“The gesture of receiving the Body of the Lord in the mouth (on the tongue) and kneeling could be a visible testimony to the faith of the Church in the Eucharistic Mystery....The desire to offer the august person of Christ affection and honour at the moment of Holy Communion in a visible manner would correspond to the spirit and example of the bi-**

millennial (2,000 years) tradition of the Church: ‘*Cum amore ac timore*’ (‘with love and fear,’ the adage of the Fathers of the first millennium) and ‘*quantum potes, tatum aude*’ (‘do as much as you can,’ the adage of the second millennium, coming St. Thomas Aquinas’ Sequence for Corpus Christ, the ‘*Lauda Sion*’).” Communion in the hand has only been a modern innovation of last few decades and has never been the tradition of the Church for almost two thousand years. Show your great love and respect (“*Cum amore ac timore*”) by always receiving Holy Communion kneeling and on the tongue.