

The Paper Pulpit

(Reflections from the Pastor)

Feast of the Body and Blood of our Lord—Corpus Christi

Scripture: Jesus said, *“This is my body, this is my blood;”* Our Lord gives us his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. The Church sets aside the Sunday after Trinity to remember the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. I want to address a serious concern: how can we invite those who do not come to Mass to come and how can we grow in reverence for the Eucharist? The Eucharist is the “source and summit of Christian life.” When respect for the Eucharist diminishes, the other sacraments also decline. After all, baptism and confirmation find their fulfillment in the Eucharist. Penance and Anointing of the Sick exist in order to restore a person to the Eucharistic table. Marriage is a sign of the wedding banquet of the Lamb. And of course priesthood takes its meaning from the Eucharist. The drop in vocations can be tied directly to a decreased reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.

Jesus told us *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his Blood, you will have no life in you”* (John 6). We must take the words of our Savior seriously—*“if we eat His Body and drink His Blood we are worthy of heaven”* and *“unless we receive His Body and Drink His Blood we are not worthy of eternal life.”* This has serious implications. Some folks stopped coming to Mass or may be going to a non-Catholic Church. People offer a variety of reasons for doing so. They might say the homilies might be long or boring, or they don’t like church politics, or say I do not get anything out of the Mass, or I blame the priest or blame the pope or I do not find Jesus or or or... The truth is every time you come to Mass you receive Jesus’ Body and Blood. Jesus promised *whoever receives His Body and Drinks His Blood is worthy of eternal life.* I invite you to open your bibles and read John’s gospel, especially chapter 6. Read the whole chapter. It is not hard. I’m sure we can find a non-Catholic Church that has better preaching, has less drama, has better singing and a feel-good atmosphere, but if we don’t receive our Lord as He promised, is it really worth it? Then we need to invite everyone we know to come and receive Jesus in Holy Communion. If they are not Catholic ask them to see me and I can help.

Are you in the covenant with Jesus? How do you know? By receiving Jesus each week in Holy Communion. Our Lord said, *“take this all of you and drink of it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the new and everlasting covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”* Are you or someone you know not coming to Mass? Kids often say their parents don’t take them. I then ask if their grandparents go to Mass and most of the time the answer is yes. Then I will ask them if they think their grandparents’ parents went to Mass and they say yes and you could keep going for hundreds or thousands of years. The parent broke the covenant. Just think... to a person, God knows who broke the covenant. I wouldn’t want to be that person. So if you or someone you know are not coming to church, please come home, and come back to the covenant. There are a million reasons to miss Mass but at least one main reason for coming. Jesus said *“I am the living bread come down from heaven and whoever eats this bread will live forever.”* (John 6). Jesus promises eternal life for those who receive his Body and Blood. No more reasons are even needed. Again, if you or someone you know are not coming to Mass, welcome (them) back. If you want to talk, give me a call.

Let me conclude with an analogy. If a doctor said you needed to take a pill once a day and if you didn’t you would die, what would you do? Would you skip it if you were on vacation? Would you skip it if you needed to attend your child’s basketball tournament? Would you skip it just because it did not taste good? What would keep you away from taking your pill? Nothing, right!!! What would keep a person away from receiving the pill (Jesus) that will give you eternal life? Jesus offers us eternal life and He is here for free.

Going on vacation? A gentle reminder: it may be summer and you may be on vacation, but don’t take a vacation from God—He doesn’t take a vacation from you. Parish expenses do not disappear in the summer either.

Brewers versus the Phillies: You have the chance to go to a professional baseball game. Come join others from the parish watch the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday, July 10. The cost is \$60 and includes the entrance fee to the game, the bus and lunch. We’ll begin with 8:00am Mass and then head out just after that around 8:45am. Forms are available in the gathering space. Space is limited, so sign up now.

Church Cleaning: I am looking for volunteers to help clean the church. Only qualification needed is to be able to push a broom and/or turn on a vacuum and/or wash a window. The more folks we can get the merrier. Very flexible scheduling (come in when you can). If a few folks donated 15-30 minutes periodically, it would go a long way to help our church stay clean.

Want to make a few extra bucks? We are also looking for someone to oversee the cleaning. See Fr. Jim or Bob Helbach for details.

In Christ, Fr. Jim Trempe