

**Solemnity of Corpus Christi
June 2, 2018**

Rejoice and be glad, sisters and brothers! We are here to give worship, honor, and thanksgiving to our God for giving us the source and summit of our entire faith. It is a gift we must never take for granted. As Pope Francis has put it: “We will never thank the Lord enough for the gift he gave us with the Eucharist. It’s such a great gift and that’s why it’s so important to go to Mass... [Mass is a time] not just to pray, but to receive Communion — this bread that is the body of Christ that saves us, forgives us, reunites us to the father. It’s beautiful to do this.” We are here to have communion in Jesus himself – his body, blood, soul, and divinity. Jesus makes himself truly present to us and allows us to take him into ourselves. This is our salvation, the source of our unity, and the very substance of the Body of Christ that we have become. Rejoice and be glad at the source and summit of all that we are!

We have been brought out of the days of blood sacrifices in the desert. As great and important was the sacrifice of Moses that cut a covenant with God’s holy people, it was nothing compared to that simple meal in the Upper Room. As amazing as the great days of atonement were in the Temple of Jerusalem, these were mere passing images of the sacrifice that happens right here on every altar in every Church throughout the world. Each time we come to Mass, a miracle is given to us. It is nearly impossible to overstate how amazing the Eucharist is, my sisters and brothers. Let us take the time and effort to renew our gratitude and awe at this great sacrament of our salvation. Even more importantly, let us take the time and effort to be honest with ourselves about how well we honor the Lord of the Eucharist in our daily lives.

We have become the Body of Christ through our communion in his Body and Blood. Do we let this affect the way we see the world? We are

one body with all who share this communion with us. We have been sent out as the Body of the Lord to bring others into communion. We have been sent to love and forgive, to have mercy, and to speak truth in love. This is the meaning of our life. We cannot offer other sacrifices than the one of Christ. Jesus has shown us the way. He did not offer “the blood of goats and bulls.” No, he offered his own life. His body, his blood, his soul, and his divinity. How then can we offer any less?

When the Gospel pushes us up against our comfortable places, will we allow ourselves to sacrifice of our own beings for the good of others? Those who are poor, those who are unborn, those who are strangers, those who are isolated, those who are forgotten, those who hate us, they deserve more than worldly economics and politically acceptable risks. They deserve all of ourselves, no matter the cost. The way the world looks at “fair” and “just” is completely insufficient. Our mission is to join our lives to the sacrifice of Christ. This is how we participate in the one bread and the one cup. This is the meaning of our communion in the Body and Blood of Christ.

It is certainly difficult to answer this call, brothers and sisters. We are not a naïve Church. But we know we can do it because of one powerful truth. We are nourished by the Lord himself. Christ Jesus shares every single part of his being with us. He fills us as no other food can fill us. He sustains us like no other idea, policy, or philosophy ever could. Through the amazing kindness of our God, we “take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.” Trust in the Lord and his ways. Do not be distracted from his commands, so that you can drink fully of that saving cup. Rejoice and be glad, Church of God. Today we give thanks to the Lord for his great gift to us. We bow before him in adoration, gratitude, and joy. Thanks be to God, who gives us the Most Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.