

## **Homily – Feast of St. Anthony of Padua and Corpus Christi**

**June 13, 2020**

**On June 14, 1692, the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Father Massenet celebrated the first Mass here and renamed our river after the saint. St. Anthony was renowned as a preacher with a deep knowledge and love for Scripture who lived the word of God in his daily lives. We are called to build on that legacy here and now!**

**It is very easy to get swept up in a whirlwind of news, events, and crises – a pandemic, protests about violations of human and civil rights, a faltering economy! It is easy to lose our way as missionary disciples and forget our utter dependence upon God for everything.**

**Today, we are taken to a barren, life-threatening desert and hear Moses remind his people how God guided them during the wilderness wandering after the Exodus from Egypt. God fed them with manna and water from a rock. They had to learn to trust God for everything. In the wilderness we learn to remember how God cares for us every day. In our neediness we remember that we are totally dependent on God. We do not live self-sufficiently.**

**In the gospel Jesus tells the crowds – and us -- that he will give us food and drink that will lead us to eternal life – his own sacred**

body and precious blood. The New Covenant between God and his people is sealed by the precious blood of Jesus. In the Eucharist we enter into a personal and communal encounter with Jesus who, in turn, shares the life of his Father with us. In faith, we enter into communion with Jesus and his heavenly Father.

In the Eucharist we partake of Jesus' sacrificial death in order to receive eternal life. We are invited to a sacred meal in which Jesus is the host and shares his Body and Blood with us. Today, we also remember the mystery that we celebrate. We acknowledge our utter dependence on God. We are very grateful for God's abiding, enduring, love care for us.

St. Paul reminds us that our participation in the Eucharist also brings us into unity as Church, as the People of God – despite our diversity. Unity, not uniformity, as Pope Francis often reminds us. As we celebrate the Eucharist today, whether physically present or through technology, let us draw into a deeper intimacy with him and his heavenly Father – and into deeper unity and communion among ourselves. Let us remember that we are missionary disciples sent to continue the risen Lord's mission and ministry in the world – including working for social justice, building up the common good!