

Our Lady of the Airways Parish

Corpus Christi, 2020



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today is a beautiful day for all of us because we celebrate the great feast of the Body and Blood of Christ: that is the feast of Corpus Christi. Even though we followed the Eucharistic celebrations in the virtual means, this is the time to come back to Christ in person. As the people of God, we are now slowly permitted to come back to the churches to pray. We know that for more than three months we were unable to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and to participate in the Holy Eucharist. This time of absence really paved us an opportunity to reflect of our living faith and strengthen our spiritual life with quench of our soul.

Importance: The two, last, precious gifts given to us by Jesus on the last supper are the Holy Eucharist as our spiritual Food and Drink on Holy Thursday and Jesus' mother, Mary as our mother on Good Friday. **Corpus Christi** is the celebration of the abiding and continual presence of the loving God as Emmanuel - God-with-us - in order to give collective thanks to our Lord living with us in the Eucharist. The feast gives us an occasion to learn more about the importance and value of his "**Real Presence**," so that we may appreciate the Sacrament better and receive maximum benefit from receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

We believe in the "**Real Presence**" of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist because in the Scripture he says about his Real Presence. Jesus promised it after miraculously feeding the 5000 people (Jn. 6:35). Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist during his Last Supper (Mt. 26: 26-27). Jesus commanded his disciples to repeat it in his memory (1Cor. 11: 24-25). "Nothing is impossible for God." (Lk. 1:37).

We understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist by: "transubstantiation", which means that the **substance** of the offered bread and wine is changed by Consecration to the **substance** of the risen Jesus' glorified, Body and Blood by the action of the Holy Spirit, and its **accidents or appearances** (like color, shape, smell, taste etc.), remain the same.

In the first reading, Dt. 8:2-3, 14b-16a, Moses instructs the Israelites to "*remember and not forget*" the miraculous provision of food in the manna given to them to save their lives in the desert. The Church, through the Holy Mass, remembers and re-presents the Sacramental meal (Last Supper) and Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary sealed by the Father as acceptable by granting him Resurrection. In the second reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians that the Bread they share is the real Body of Christ, which makes their community also the Body of the risen Christ. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus identifies himself as "*the Living Bread that came down from Heaven*," thus linking himself with the manna in the wilderness, while assuring his disciples that, unlike those who ate manna, "*One who eats this Bread will live forever.*"

A Sacrament and a sacrifice: Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist both as a sacramental banquet and a sacrificial offering. As a Sacrament; the Eucharist is a visible sign that gives us God's grace and God's life. As a meal; it nourishes our souls. As a sacrifice; the Eucharistic celebration is a re-presentation or re-enactment of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary, completed in His Resurrection. We offer Jesus' sacrifice to God the Father for the remission of our sins, using signs and symbols.

Conclusion:

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our life. It nourishes us. It gives us the strength to fight against evil and to bear the sufferings and temptations that comes into our lives. Sin separates us both from our neighbours and God. The Eucharist invites us to give ourselves to others and to share our goodness with others. When we take Communion every time then we become Christ-bearers. We are called to carry Jesus everywhere we go and to present Jesus to every person we meet. Mother Theresa is a very good and typical example for this. People, especially the poor, experienced Jesus in her simple and witnessing life, in her smile, in her sacrifice, in her mercy, in her commitment and in her way of life. We have to ask ourselves whether we experience the real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist or else does it become a routine in life. We are all blessed to receive him in Eucharist and so let us praise him and become worthy and fruitful witnesses and disciples of God.

Yours in Christ,

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