



HOMILY SOLEMNITY OF THE
BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ASST
BY DEACON BOB BAKER

I like the explanation I read the other day about how much God loves us and how we sometimes reject that love. We are sometimes like porcupines towards God's for love us, he will always embrace us no matter how hurtful it is for him.

This is how we sometimes act when we have receive the Body and Blood of Christ

Body and Blood of Christ!!!! Jesus said take and eat and drink for this is my body and blood.

Jesus doesn't make it easy on his disciples when he told them like it was!

In John 6: Jesus says to the Jewish crowds: I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I give is my flesh for the life of the world. “Unlike your ancestors who eat and still died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

As a result of this, many [of] his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

When Martin Luther broke away from the Church one of the main reason was when he interpreted St Paul referred to Communion as bread, that means Paul was saying the SUBSTANCE of Communion was NOT changed and it always remains Bread and Wine. Lutherans have modified that some since Martin Luther’s teaching. But taken in context this doesn't make much sense because if it was JUST bread, why did Paul in 1 Cor 11:27 write:

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup.

For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1337 makes it very clear what and why we believe in the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ at the Mass and I quote. “The Lord having loved those who were his own, loved them to the end. Knowing the hour had come to leave this world and return to the Father, in the course of the meal he washed their feet and gave them the commandment of love. In order to leave them a pledge of his love, in order to never depart from his own and to make them sharers in his Passover he instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of his death and resurrection and commanded his disciples to celebrate until his return: “thereby he constituted them priest of the new testament.(unquote).

Then in 1339 when he said do this in remembrance of me. He didn't say pretend to do this in remembrance of me. Do this in remembrance of me until I come again.

Many would say the Catechism of the Catholic Church was a man-made rule to control us. No, but like our cell phone if we don't understand why, we may never be able to get the full understanding or guidelines of our cell phones. The church uses the Catechism as our guidelines to help us fuller understand our Catholic teaching.

If we chose not to follow these guide lines we are not opening ourselves to let

Jesus into our being, not honoring the sacrifice made to free us from sin.

If we don't allow ourselves to become a part of Jesus and him a part of us. All too

often we receive the true food and the true drink but don't allow it to transform

us. We take the gift for granted.

What a gift but also most important if we receive this gift without mortal sin on

our soul the graces are many. There are some who receive this gift and do not

believe what they are receiving. Some might believe but soon as they receive,

they forget Christ has just entered into their body and soul.

Making this moment more meaningful I offer a few comments.

When we approach to receive the sacrament, the Eucharistic minister says "Body

of Christ, Blood of Christ. When we respond Amen we are expressing our

belief that we have just received the Body and Blood of Christ, but is also

expresses our belief in the togetherness in the believing community.

Don't mumble the AMEN say it clear and mean it.

Also another important point is how we act or react when we come forward with open hands. Most of all with an open heart. We should never grab the body of Christ unless we have physical disability.

Another very important point: If we don't believe we are receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, we are committing a sacrilege, second if we have committed a gravest sin and have avoided the Sacrament of reconciliation and we receive the Body and Blood Christ we have also committed a sacrilege.

The Church makes these conditions to show us how sacred this gift of love is.

It is not to punish us but help us to understand fully the Love Jesus has for us.

I bring these things to your attention because I'm afraid many of us have forgotten how sacred a gift Jesus gave his disciples to share with his people.(us)

So again why did Christ institute the gift of his body and blood in the sacrifice of the Mass?

Most of all his Love for all mankind and also we read in I Cor 10 in short tells it all! "Because the loaf of bread is one, we through many, we are now one body, for we partake of the one loaf. "IN other words we are one in Christ.

Remember it is not just you and Christ, it is Christ and us.

Before I close I would like to refer back to my first statement: Receiving our Lord's Body and Blood we are letting our heavenly Father get close to us, so we can become more like sheep and less like porcupines.