

June 23, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ: At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and broke it and then took a cup of wine and passed it around. "This is my body and this is my blood," he said. This is the Eucharist of the church and just as the Eucharist is blessed, broken and passed around so, too, when our very lives are broken open, passed around and shared with others, we are living as the Body of Christ in the world, today. The Eucharist is our nourishment for living our faith and the way we can nourish others with living bread. As we feast on the Eucharist; live our faith; love others as God loves us and lay down our lives so that others may have life then we feed others with the living bread come down from heaven. We make real the presence of Christ.

Today we give thanks for the real presence of Christ in word and sacrament and in the people of God who feast on this heavenly food and who are formed and shaped into the Body of Christ in the world today. It is so very important that we become what we eat. In the Eucharist, we celebrate how much the Lord loves us, cares for us, lays down his life for us, offers us eternal life and glory and strengthens us so that we can truly live as if we are heaven bound. The Eucharist is our way of life to love others as we ourselves are loved.

Thanks to all who have lived Eucharist for us and who still live Eucharist for us today. Thanks to all who have sacrificed to pass the faith on to us. Thanks to all who lay down their lives that we might live; who pour out their lives that we might have life. Thanks to all who are Eucharistic ministers and who bring the Lord to the sick and those who must stay at home. Thanks to all who celebrate the Sunday Eucharist; who partake of this heavenly food and who dare become and live as the Body of Christ. Thanks and praise to God for loving us so deeply and for remaining present to us in this Sacrament and in the lives of all who believe. Once more, welcome to the Lord's Table to all who made their first communion this year. May this be the first of many times to come and for the rest of us, may this be another time in many more times that we gather at the Lord's Table together as the Body of Christ. "Anyone who eats this bread, will live forever." How we pray is what we believe and is also how we live.

Soul of Christ, Sanctify me. Body of Christ, heal me. Blood of Christ, drench me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ strengthen me. Good Jesus, hear me. In your wounds, shelter me. From turning away, keep me. From the evil one, protect me. At the hour of death, call me. Into your presence lead me, to praise you with all of your saints forever and ever. Amen. (Anima Christi or Soul of Christ found in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.)

Many, many thanks! Thank you all so very much for the wonderful celebration of Trinity Sunday, Father's Day and the 40th Anniversary of my ordination. The beautiful big box of cards, greetings, prayers, pictures, blessings, stories of ministry and expressions of love and gratitude was the perfect gift. You are the joy of my ministry and priesthood. I will continue to give God thanks for all of you and for the blessing God has given us that our paths have crossed and for the privilege of being church together. May all that we are and do together be for the glory and honor of God and the building of his kingdom now and forever!