

Fr. Martin's Reflection – June 19, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend we celebrate the wonderful feast of Corpus Christi – Body and Blood of Christ. We are so honored and privileged, as Catholics, that every time we come to the celebration of the Eucharist, we have the opportunity to receive the Body of Christ. The same body that died on the cross for us, the same body that was born of Mary, and the same body that Jesus said to us, you must eat my body and drink my blood if you want to have life in you.

I know when COVID first hit and all our places of worship had to close, many of us felt so lost and empty because we couldn't receive the Eucharist and found watching the celebration of the Eucharist on TV or computer odd and impersonal. As time passed many of us became more and more comfortable with it and quite liked the convenience of it. When our churches reopened again, we slowly began to come back. I understand and appreciate that there are many who still feel anxious about returning because of underlying health issues, but there are many others who still remain away. I have had people say to me, Father, it is great to be able to watch mass on the TV, it's like being there, but here's the thing; no matter how often we look at the celebration of the Eucharist on TV we will never be able to receive the Body of Christ, and for me, it doesn't even come close to being the same.

This is not unique to our parish. Parishes across America are struggling with the same issue. And maybe that is because, not so much that we are comfortable on the sofa, but we don't truly believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In August 2019, The Pew Research Center found that 69% of Catholics did not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This finding gave great concern to the Bishops of America, and they realized the need to re-evangelize God's people on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Beginning this Sunday, the feast of Corpus Christi, and for the next 3 years, the Catholic Church will embark on a pilgrimage of **'Eucharist Revival.'**

The Eucharist Revival over the next 3 years will be a wonderful opportunity for each of us to deepen, or re-introduce ourselves to Christ, or be introduced to Christ. I would like to share with you a wonderful opportunity to have Jesus come and visit you in your home in the physical presence of the Eucharist. I have a team that will bring the Eucharist to you, stay with you, and then bring the Eucharist back to the Church. This is how you can you participate:

What Do I Need To Do and Who Do I Invite?

- Think who you would like to have gathered, family, neighbors, or a combination of both.
- Contact the office to arrange an afternoon or evening that suits you.
- The group gathered should not be more than 10, so to keep it intimate.
- Create a space where Christ in the Monstrance can be placed – somewhere everyone gathered can see Christ.
- Have a clean white cloth placed so the Monstrance can be placed on it.
- Have a lit candle – real or battery.
- Meet Christ at the door with the candle and welcome him to your home and show him where you would like for him to be placed.
- The Minister with the Eucharist can lead the group in prayer, but if the host has a prayer structure that they would like to follow that is good too.
- Please, no coffee, tea, or alcohol before the arrival of the Eucharist or while the Eucharist is present – hospitality can take place after the Eucharist is returned to the Church.

This is an opportunity to speak with Jesus, an opportunity to speak from the heart. To share with Jesus all that is going on in your life.

Why is having Jesus in our homes important? What impact can it have? I am reminded of the scripture passage when Jesus said to Zacchaeus, come down from the tree. I must stay at your house today. So, he came down at once and welcomed him gladly (Lk 19:5-6). We don't know what was said, but we do know that it changed Zacchaeus's life, and I believe if we, like Zacchaeus, invite Jesus into our home it too can change our lives.

Prayer for Fathers

God, our Father, bless these men, that they may find strength as fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their daughters and sons, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Amen

I want to wish all our fathers a very happy Father's Day – May God the Father always be your inspiration and guide. May God bless you and keep you forever in God's loving care.

Fr. Martin