

Fr. Martin's Reflection – June 11, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend we celebrate Corpus Christi – The Body and Blood of Christ. We are so privileged and so blessed as Catholics to have the opportunity of receiving Christ's Body and Blood every time we come to celebrate the Eucharist.

In John 6:53-58 Jesus proclaims to all his followers the importance of 'eating His Body and drinking His blood.' Why would Jesus want us to do this, to what benefit? Jesus tells us what the benefit is very clearly when He says, 'For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. ... whoever eats this bread will live forever.'

We must look at the context in which Jesus finally gives His Body and His Blood to His disciples. It was the night before what was to be the most brutal and savage attack on God in this world, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus knew what this would do to his disciples and to all His early followers, it could destroy them. It was at this point that He gave them Himself in the form of the Eucharist to strengthen them and sustain them through these most brutal of times. The Eucharist was to sustain them on many other occasions in their early missionary lives. The Eucharist has sustained and strengthened our Church through the centuries and even through this present time of difficulty.

The Eucharist was not just given to the body of the Church but also given to us as individuals. Christ comes to us to strengthen us, protect us and sustain us. Please don't be afraid to come to Christ and especially in this most beautiful of forms.

'Jesus said to them, **"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."** Jn 6:35

National Eucharistic Revival

I'm hoping you will have heard of the National Eucharistic Revival and why the Bishops of the U.S. believed it was important to focus on the Eucharist over this three-year period. In case you haven't, I will give you a brief recap. In 2019 the Pew Research Institute found that 69% of Catholics did not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. For us as Catholics, this is one of the pillars of our faith, right up there with the death and resurrection of Jesus. The U.S. Bishops have created a three-year mission called the National Eucharistic Revival. The first year was focused on the Diocesan Ministries, RCIA, Religious Education, Catholic Schools etc.

The second-year focus is parish. There will be many activities that will be launched over the Summer and early Fall. **One simple but very important activity to begin on Monday following Corpus Christi will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Saints,** (the small chapel attached to St. Mary Church, Bordentown) **from 1pm – 7pm, Monday – Friday.**

Let each of us make a conscious decision to deepen our relationship with Christ, let us reconnect, let us sit with Christ and allow Christ to enter our hearts and enter our lives. Come as an individual, come as a couple, come as a family, come and sit for a while.

Fr. Martin