

***Corpus Christi* – The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ: Cycle A**

Do you recall how idealistic you were as a young person? Remember how in your late teens or early twenties you had a passionate desire to accomplish some rather lofty goals. For some, it would be curing disease, while others sought to undo social injustices. I personally embraced the career of a military officer in which I would defend my nation and my family. That was the fire that burned within me as a young university graduate.

The desire that we had to achieve those goals that filled the void in our early years was almost like the physical effects of a nutritional disorder. We had a deep hunger that drove us forward in attaining those goals; however, that “hunger” was not from the results of an “empty belly” or the lack of nutrients. No, we and those around us were hungry for peace, a clean environment and justice in which to live. We and others, also had a desire for friendship, intimacy and love, as well as, a life filled with meaning, direction and purpose. Also deep within us was a hidden desire, which we may not have fully understood, it was a yearning for God. We would later discover in theology classes that we were “hard wired” to seek the Divine and all of our earthly accomplishments would not satisfy the “craving” that we have for our Creator.

At some level, we all understand that or we wouldn't be gathered at this time and in this place to celebrate the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*, or in our vernacular language: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ. For what we sense and share as we gather around this altar, this holy table, is indeed just that, a holy thing. It is an encounter with the Risen Lord --- an encounter that can have a profound impact on our lives.

That spiritual hunger, of which I speak, never gets totally satisfied. What a paradox! We come to the altar because we are hungry for God and are fed. We are given what we deeply desire to continue the mission of our Creator; yet, our hunger remains. The craving continues and we will continually return to be fulfilled and renewed, and we further pray, that this "spiritual hunger" will never leave us.

The "hunger" of which I speak, is not an individual craving. No, we are gathered in all of our diversity as a community united in our faith. Furthermore, we pray that this "hunger" will transform our community into a community of hope that goes beyond these walls and attempts to fill the spiritual hunger of others.

For some in this world, the belief that God can come to us under the appearance of bread and wine, is not an easy concept to grasp, much less believe. Yet, through the mystery that we celebrate today, we are drawn to the Table of the Lord, not as individuals, but as the Body of Christ, his Church.

I pray that we will recognize that we have hungry hearts for God's presence in our daily lives and that "hunger" will never leave us. I also pray, as we leave this church today, that we will recognize that we have been transformed. Transformed, so that we can take on one of the greatest challenges of our day, and that is --- feeding the desires of others for hope, peace, justice, compassion, acceptance, and opportunity with that very same passion that inflamed and fed the idealism of our youth.