

## CORPUS CHRISTI 2020

There is a huge difference between believing in God with our lives and knowing Him as a person in our lives.

The difference between theory and experience is also very apparent in other areas of life.

Examples:

Menu: You can read it, admire it, approve and think how delicious this dish might be. But it is quite another thing to eat the meal.

Botany: You can study plants, learn basic principles about plant life. It is quite another thing to enjoy flowers.

Astronomy: You can listen to a lecture on it. You can agree the universe is vast and mysterious. But it is quite another thing to be overawed by the majestic beauty of the stars.

To believe in some great matters with our minds but not experience them in our lives is woefully incomplete.

That is exactly where too many people stand with reference to God. They believe in Him but He is not a real person to them.

Jesus knew what little value faith in God can be, even a correct belief.

His disciples must do more than listen to Him and agree with Him.

They must partake of Him. They must receive Him in person.

Jesus said "I am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever. The bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Jesus tells us our God must be a central part of our lives.

We must receive Him – not just study and read about Him, and listen to sermons about Him.

We must experience Him.

Those of you who got married – you said "I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, will love you and honor you all the days of my life."

In those words you felt the tremendous joy and challenge. It was a thrill to commit yourself to another person.

And yet at the same time it was a commitment that you knew would be a difficult challenge. Your love for each other enables you to make such a solemn and joyful vow to each other.

Well, for each of us, married or unmarried, there is a similar moment each time we receive the Eucharist.

When you and I say that one single word in response to the minister who says “The Body of Christ” – we say “Amen.”

That single word is full of meaning.

It is full of faith, full of promise and also a challenge.

This feast of The Body and Blood of Christ is calling us to remember the meaning of that simple word “Amen.”

The word means “so be it” or “yes, I believe.”

We are giving our assent that we are receiving Jesus Himself and we are doing it in communion with all of Jesus’ body – the mystical body – with all other men and women who belong to the Body of Christ.

You see there are responsibilities to saying “Amen.”

The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading says “We are all one body, for we all partake of the one bread – the Body of Christ.”

So today we are called, not just to know about Jesus, but to actually receive Him and by receiving Him we are called to live our lives conscious that we have become one with Him.

So, the Eucharist is both a gift and a duty (like marriage).

We must live what we profess when we take the Eucharist.

Amen.