

Corpus Christi Year "C"

They all ate and were satisfied.

June 2, 2013

Readings: Genesis 14:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 9:11-17

"They all ate and were satisfied." Thus ends our Gospel this morning, but a question we might ask as a follow up would be, "But for how long?" If we are honest, we perhaps should admit that some days it does not take very long before the aftermath of the Mass begins to fade—sometimes it happens in the car on the way home. Sound theology seems to crumble in our daily lives.

So why do we fail to incorporate this basic teaching in our lives? Is it too sublime, is it too far beyond us, is it too much to handle? One problem seems to be an inability to put aside those daily concerns when we enter into Church. It is nearly impossible to leave them at the door, but are we in fact asked to do so? Rather than leaving them at the door, we lay them at the altar, confident that God desires to heal our families and our lives through the power of this great sacrament. We marvel that Christ gives us his flesh to eat, and wonder how that could happen?

But do marvel at how the Eucharist can transform us, mold us, shape all of our actions when we measure the things of world against the promises of heaven? Do we feel changed when we head for the Parking Lot? Early in the early 2nd century, St. Ignatius of lamented how some abstained from the Eucharist: *Ep. Smyrnaeans* 6:2-7:1

"... because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes"

Certainly, when Ignatius spoke of those who were perishing in their disputes, he referred to heretical doctrines, but could we not apply it to our lives as well? Our families can easily perish in our own disputes when

we lose sight of the unifying power of the Eucharist. How can we get in an argument in the car on the way home from Mass, unless we fail to appreciate what has just happened at Mass? Are you *satisfied* with your marriage and family life? At times do you feel like you are just hanging on, trying to keep it all together? It is critical that we are able to see the Holy Eucharist as the primary source of strength and unity for our families, primarily your nuclear family, but also the family of the Church.

Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist to give those who believe in Him the power they need to remain alive in His grace. The power of the Eucharist is so great that it can bring your families closer together. It can be said that according to Jesus' intention in formulating the new commandment of love at the Last Supper, Eucharistic communion enables those who receive it to put it into practice: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34; 15:12).

They all ate and were satisfied. As I have slowly gotten to know more families, your desire for a strong and unified life becomes more and more clear. The Church must reach out to help you live this worthy calling in fidelity, fruitfulness and charity. Protect this time together by giving it your highest priority—make the tough choices so that you are able to worship together if at all possible.

See Sunday Mass as the glue that helps to hold everything together. Early Christians died on account of this Eucharist, rather than deny its power. Allow it to transform you, and do not be afraid of being challenged and changed, for the Eucharist will certainly effect both challenge and change in the hearts of all believers.