

Corpus Christi Year "B"
June 2-3, 2018

Become that which you receive.

Readings: Exodus 24:3-8; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 6:51-58

Today, we celebrate a great solemnity in the Church in honor of the Holy Eucharist. While we owe a great debt of gratitude to the theologians over the centuries who have contributed to the Church's fuller understanding of this sacrament, it is equally true that for many people the Eucharist is understood, not through theological terms, but through the burning fire of love that the Eucharist has enflamed in our hearts.

We are told in the Letter to the Hebrews that Christ entered once for all into the sanctuary by means of his own blood, shed for our sins. He deigned to enter into our world to save and set us free and to even enter into our bodies through the sacramental graces of the Holy Eucharist. He desires to transform us into His likeness by entering into the very depths of our being.

St. Augustine gave some pointed advice to the newly Baptized about the Eucharist that they were now privileged to receive.

Remember: bread doesn't come from a single grain, but from many. When you received exorcism, you were "ground." **Be what you see; receive what you are...** In the visible object of bread, many grains are gathered into one just as the faithful (so Scripture says) form "a single heart and mind in God" [Acts 4.32]. And thus it is with the wine. Remember, friends, how wine is made. Individual grapes hang together in a bunch, but the juice from them all is mingled to become a single brew.¹ (Emphasis added)

The Eucharist is communal at its core. It is a mystery of our unity. If with

¹ Augustine, Sermo #272 "Recolite quia panis non fit de uno grano, sed de multis. Quando exorcizabamini, quasi molebamini. Quando baptizati estis, quasi conspersi estis. Quando Spiritus Sancti ignem accepistis, quasi cocti estis. **Estote quod videtis, et accipite quod estis.** ... Sicut enim ut sit species visibilis panis, multa grana in unum consperguntur, tamquam illud fiat, quod de fidelibus ait Scriptura Sancta: *Erat illis anima una, et cor unum in Deum* sic et de vino. Fratres, recolite unde fit vinum. Grana multa pendent ad botrum, sed liquor granorum in unitate confunditur."

the eyes of faith we see Jesus present in this sacrament, then we are invited to be like Jesus. Will others see in us a reflection of Him?

“Be what you see, receive what you are.” When we say "Amen", we are saying "Yes! I believe this is the Body and Blood of Christ and that I will be the Body of Christ to others." The Second Vatican Council stated that “the liturgy is the source for achieving in the most effective way possible human sanctification and God’s glorification, the end to which all the Church’s activities are directed.”²

As we now prepare to settle in for the summer, we have this one more solemnity within Ordinary Time, a reminder of the banquet to which we have been invited. This is one invitation we desperately need to accept, for it is but a foretaste of all the good that is yet to come.

Our Lord humbled himself and entered once and for all into our sanctuary, the sanctuary of our humanity and our brokenness. He did this to heal us. The Eucharist heals us and makes us whole. It heals divisions in families, in relationships.

Give us this Bread from Heaven today and every day, the living Bread that nourishes us and gives us strength.

² Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, para. #10.