

**For The Bulletin of
June 7, 2015**

**CORPUS CHRISTI –
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
BODY AND BLOOD OF
CHRIST**

From Father Robert

Today's feast is a "repeat" of what we celebrated just a few weeks ago on Holy Thursday. Jesus does something entirely new and unimaginably significant: He gives Himself – His very Body and Blood – to us as our heavenly food. This is the mystery we celebrate on Holy Thursday and this Sunday. The gospel we hear today, however, gives us a different context and some different details that move us deeper into the mystery.

How confidently does Jesus send His disciples "into the city" to prepare for their celebration of Passover! How wondrously does God provide for the unfolding of salvation! The identifying sign for the man of the house where they would have this meal with Jesus was a "jar of water." Our own identifying sign as disciples is the waters of baptism, marking us as belonging to Christ and His mystery. The room where Jesus would celebrate the Passover with His disciples is described as a "guest room." Guest rooms are not where we are at home – they are transition rooms, temporary quarters, gifts of another's generosity. We are always "guests" in God's accommodations. We are to stay only temporarily, to move from one place to another, from one person to another to witness to God's mighty deeds of salvation. God's gifts to us are not so we can settle in, stay put, become

inert. God's gifts always impel us to move on, to spread the Good News, to "pass over" into someone new.

Jesus wants to "eat the Passover with His disciples." This annual festival celebrates the Jewish people "passing over" from lives of slavery and drudgery in Egypt to lives of freedom and abundance in the Promised Land. This meal portends another Passover – Jesus' own passing over from suffering and death to risen Life. Through our baptism we enter into Jesus' mystery of dying and rising. And yet another Passover: our passing over from old self to new self, from life of sin to life of grace. Each Eucharist, each time we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ, we embrace anew our passing over to new Life in Christ.

Each celebration of the Eucharist is a Passover for us. It celebrates our plunging ever more deeply into the paschal mystery, into Jesus' passing from death to risen Life. It celebrates our embrace of the new identity baptism first bestows on us and Eucharist celebrates and nourishes: that we ourselves are members of the Body of Christ. As Jesus continually gives Himself to us in the mystery of His Body and Blood, so does Eucharist call us to the same self-giving.

Living The Paschal Mystery

The covenant God made with Israel and sealed through the sprinkling of the sacrificial animal blood was a relationship with God in which they were to hear God's word and keep His commandments. Now, rather than being sprinkled "with the blood of goats and calves," we drink the Blood of the risen Lord and by that action seal our new

covenant with God. We are still to hear God's word and keep His commandments, like of old, but now something else is added: we ourselves are to take up God's redemptive work as we conform ourselves more perfectly to Christ and continue His self-giving ministry.

Our everyday living is preparation for sharing in the Eucharist and receiving eternal life. We sprinkle among the people with whom we live and work little acts of self-giving, sealing our relationship with them and with God. This is how we "worship the Living God": by self-giving.

Having celebrated with us today and listened to these readings once again, how has your understanding and appreciation of this feast deepened?

- Jesus' passing over from death to risen Life is exemplified in my daily living by...
- As a disciple of the risen Christ, what happens to me when I "eat the Passover" with Him is...
- The "passing over" that happens to me when I eat and drink the risen Christ's Body and Blood is...

About Liturgy: Preparing For and Appreciating The Mystery

The General Instruction to the Roman Missal provides that there be a brief period of silence or Hymn of Praise after Communion. Thus the ritual action itself encourages us to spend some time reflecting on and praising God for the gracious and wondrous gift of the Body and Blood of Christ. Even if we faithfully do this at every Eucharist, we know that we cannot begin to have sufficient time to reflect on the depths of

the mystery or to give sufficient thanks for it. For this reason, it is always appropriate to spend some other devotional time before the Blessed Sacrament. Our time of adoration and thanksgiving, however, must always flow from the action of the Eucharist itself and lead us to witness more clearly in our lives the self-giving of Jesus. This great Gift always – during Eucharist and at times of adoration – leads us to identify our lives more closely with Christ. We are reminded, then, that this Gift has its cost: we, too, are to give ourselves to others. Anything less than this is to rob the mystery of its greatest depth – the fact that we eat and drink Christ's true Body and Blood and become what we eat so that we can be the self-giving Christ for others.

Since we naturally take sufficient preparation time for significant events in our lives, it would seem that this would also be part of our weekly celebration of Eucharist. Perhaps because it is a weekly event, far too many of us take little or no time to prepare for this most important event of our week. The church gives us ways to prepare: every Friday is a day of penance on which we fast, pray, and do acts of charity to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Gift we receive on Sunday. Every act of self-giving for the good of others is also preparation for celebrating Eucharist. Reading the Scriptures ahead of time so we can better hear God's Word proclaimed is another way to prepare. Dressing in something other than everyday clothing, work clothes, or beach attire, is another way we prepare ourselves and also witness to others the important of Eucharist in our lives.

About Liturgical Music: Music For The Communion Procession

This solemnity offers a good opportunity to reflect on the purpose of the music we sing during Communion. The General Instruction to the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that the purpose of the music for the Communion Procession is to express our union through the union of our voices, to communicate our joy as we gather for the Eucharistic banquet, and to emphasize the communal nature of the Communion procession. The GIRM also indicates that the song is to begin when the presider gives himself Communion and lasts until everyone in the assembly has received (“We process together; we sing together; we receive together; and only when all have received, do we sit together”). One implication of these directives is that we are to be attentive to one another as we receive Holy Communion. The music we sing is meant to lead us both to Christ and to all the others with whom we are being united through His Body and Blood.

“Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship” indicates that communal singing is “preeminent” during the Communion Procession. Addressing what kinds of sung music are suitable for Communion, STL guides us to look for texts with themes of joy, wonder, unity, gratitude, praise; or texts that reflect themes from the gospel of the day; or music that supports the liturgical action of eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ.

Eucharistic Minister Training

Next Sunday, June 7th, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, there will be a training session for all current and new Eucharistic Ministers. The

training will update training and the protocol for all ministers. Please put it on your calendar and plan to be with us. I will be present and participate in the training process.

Lector Training

On Tuesday, June 9th, our Lectors, both new as well as veterans, will gather for training and an update by our new Lector Coordinators, **Steve and Frances Rojek**. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to be with us. If you will not be able to attend, please be sure to contact either Steve or Frances to find out what you have missed and what you need to know! The session begins at 7:00 p.m.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

Our next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday, June 12th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The site for the witness is International Christian Ministries, located at G and Madill Sts.

Altar Servers Pizza Night and Recognition

On Tuesday, June 16th, our Altar Servers will be treated to Pizza and then will be honored and recognized for their service to our community. If your child is an Altar Server, please contact Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pastoral Associate, through the Parish Office to let him know your child will be attending. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Gifts and Memorials

There are opportunities for individuals and families to honor or memorialize a loved one by designating something for the church, such as the Icons or the new Presidential and Diaconal Chairs, or flower arrangements at the Altar and Ambo. If you are interested in providing

something in honor of or in loving memory of a family member or friend, please speak with me and I will assist you in making your gift possible.

Concert Series Begins Again

This past week, **Don Pearson, our Organist/Director of Music/Artist-in-Residence**, announced the Summer Series of Concerts that continue on into the Fall. The first of the Summer concerts will take place on Friday evening, June 19th, 8:00 p.m. and will feature French Classics and music of the German Romantic era. The concert is free and following the concert, a reception will take place in our parish hall. A free will offering will be received to help defray the cost of the reception. A flyer detailing the dates and times of the upcoming concerts will be found in today's bulletin. I hope you will be able to join us.

St. Martha's Guild

This new ministry of hospitality, service and support is offered to grieving families who are celebrating the gift of life for a loved one. As St. Martha served Jesus and His disciples, thinking it not a duty but a privilege, we also wish to serve.

Celebrating the gift of faith with family and friends is an essential part of the healing process. It is our hope to accompany the grieving family during this time of loss.

We would like to take this opportunity to *sincerely thank all parishioners who volunteered* a few weeks ago to occasionally help in the kitchen and/or provide food for funeral receptions. Your response was heartwarming.

Anyone else interested in joining St. Martha's Guild is asked to contact Mary at 754-8599, Nancy at 757-8555 or Lorraine at 754-2746.

The Future of Catholic Education and in Particular, Catholic Schools

Last Wednesday, the clergy of the Diocese gathered for our annual Spring Study Day. Held at St. Stephen, The Martyr Parish in Walnut Creek, the discussion and presentation were led by **Fr. Joe Capurro** from the University of Notre Dame. He was engaging, interesting, and entertaining – he has a great sense of humor! He has been commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (UCCB) to give presentations on the future of Catholic Education and Catholic Schools in Dioceses around the country. There is no question that Catholic Schools have a great future but we are going to have to learn to “think outside the box” and be creative in order to make Catholic Schools as accessible as possible for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. What was also significant was his remark that everything that is said of the future of Catholic Education and Catholic Schools is equally applicable to Faith Formation for public school children (formally known as “CCD”).

I have attached several pages to my Insert today to share with you some of the information that Fr. Capurro shared with us. I hope you find it informative and enlightening.

Thank You

...to those who came early to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend and the coming week: **Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Nancy Santos, and Jun Bajet.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Riza Mendoza, Patricia Britton, Gino Ramos, Geri Abaya, and Harlan Young.**

Yet Another Gift From YLI

This past Friday morning, I had the honor of receiving the out-going President of the YLI, **Kathy Augusta,** and in-coming President, **Lee Oliver.** On behalf of YLI, No. 101, they presented me with a check for the parish in the amount of \$1,062.00 representing the proceeds from their recent Family Pasta Dinner. The donation has been designated towards the Building Fund for the building of the Great Hall. On behalf of all of us, I thank them and each of the members of the YLI for all they do, for their commitment, dedication, and love for our parish, for all their hard work, and constant fund-raising to help us reach our goal. How blessed we are to have these holy women in our community who love the church so dearly. This was the second gift in excess of \$1,000 to come from YLI within the last two weeks for our Building Fund.

The Roof Project

As many of you experienced last weekend, a large dumpster was placed in the Gathering Plaza to receive the various levels of roofing that covered the addition to the front of the church over the offices, the narthex, the bathrooms, and the Sacristy. All of the work was done by RDJ Construction, none-other than our very own **Rich Confetti, Don Benson, and Jose Palomino.** Starting early each morning and working through the heat of the day, they removed all the various layers of previous roofing in

order to prepare the space for the new roofing that began to be installed on Monday, June 1st. In addition to the new roofing, the surface is being correctly sloped and drains installed to carry away rain water so that no further damage will be done and no further leaks to the various sections of the building. All of that work was done voluntarily because of their love, commitment, and dedication to our parish. Without their help and hard work, we would not have been able to afford to have this project done. **Thank you, Rich, Don, and Jose for all you have done and continue to do.** We are deeply grateful.