

**For The Bulletin Of  
May 29, 2016**

## **THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

*From Father Robert*

What do we usually do with leftovers? They become tomorrow's lunch or next week's garbage. Sometimes leftovers are even better the second time around – the flavors have had more time to blend together for an even more pleasing eating experience. In today's gospel story about multiplication of loaves and fish to feed the hungry crowd – about food and leftovers – Jesus does far more than satisfy physical hunger and provide tomorrow's lunch for the disciples. He foreshadows the gift of His very self as the Bread of Life.

Jesus taught the crowds and “healed those who needed to be cured.” Our need for Jesus and what He gives us, however, goes beyond teaching and healing. Even more, we need the food Jesus gives in unfathomable abundance. This food sublimely satisfies us. Yet even more: it transforms us into being the “leftover fragments” – the Body of Christ – continuing Jesus' ministry of giving self over for others.

Jesus' gospel command is clear: we are to feed others. We give to others not from the “deserted place” of our own hearts, but from the “leftover fragments” of God's blessings. God's abundant nourishment is most startlingly given in the handing over of Jesus' life – on the cross, in the bread and wine. As Jesus' followers we are to be God's abundant nourishment for others by our own self-

gift of life. God's abundant giving continues in our own self-giving lives.

The Twelve are taught by Jesus' word-deed that they themselves are to be the “leftover fragments” that nourish others. Jesus makes clear God's intention for us: “Give them some food yourselves.” He is really saying, “Give them the good that is yourselves.” Perhaps the amazement of this gospel and festival is that God so willingly chooses us humans to make known divine superabundance and blessing.

The gospel moves from the practical, tangible level of feeding hungry people to the mystery of God's abundance and excess; the gospel moves from the disciples' concern about feeding the crowd to their becoming the “leftover fragments” that nourish God's hungry people. This solemnity celebrates God's graciousness to us – a gift of superabundance. We are invited to participate in God's graciousness by our passing on this abundance. Our lives, then, must witness to the intersection of need and generosity. Our lives must witness to the intersection of Jesus' life and our lives, given for others in a superabundance that just keeps getting better.

### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

The first reading relates the priest Melchizedek's bringing out gifts of bread and wine and blessing Abram. The last line of the reading records Abram's response: “Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” Like Abram, we've been given many gifts, surely not least being the Eucharist. Our response, like Abram, must be to “tithe” ourselves, to share those gifts with others, to share our very selves with others. We

proclaim the death of the Lord when we are the “body that is for others.” Death leading to new Life lies in giving of ourselves, of being willing “leftover fragments” that bring God’s Life and nourishment to others. If we dare to share in the sublime gift of Jesus’ Body and Blood, then we must also dare to die to ourselves and share our own selves with others. Gift demands response. Sublime gift demands ultimate response – dying to ourselves so that we might share Eucharistic Life with the world.

- When Jesus says, “Give them some food yourselves,” He is telling me...
- Jesus satisfies me with unfathomable abundance when...My response is...
- I know myself to be the “leftover fragments,” the Body of Christ, most surely when...

### ***About Liturgy: Breadth of the Eucharistic Mystery***

We rightly think of the Eucharist as God’s gift of nourishment for us when we share in the Body and Blood of the Lord and recognize this as sublime gift that Jesus has left us. The readings for this solemnity also help us think of the Eucharistic mystery in even broader terms.

First, by sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ we are *transformed* into being more perfect members of the Body of Christ. Thus, sharing in Eucharist is our way of growing more deeply into our own baptismal identity. Second, the Eucharistic mystery includes continually establishing God’s reign which is evidenced by healing, reconciling, and feeding others. Third, the Eucharistic mystery calls forth from us practical,

everyday actions by which we ourselves help establish God’s reign by dying to ourselves for the sake of others. Fourth, the Eucharistic mystery demands a response and so we “tithe” the gifts given to us for the sake of others less fortunate. In a real sense the Eucharistic mystery begins at Liturgy, reaches a high point during Communion, and then extends beyond the ritual moment to our everyday lives when we live its self-giving demand-response.

### ***History and Context***

This feast became popular in an era when actual participation in the celebration of the Eucharist was limited, so people focused more on the result of the celebration – the Body of Christ reserved in the tabernacle and displayed in the monstrance. It became a day to celebrate the Body of Christ, carrying the sacrament through the streets in procession. That still happens in some places, although it is less common today.

With the reform of the liturgy after the Second Vatican Council, the name and focus of the feast changed somewhat. It is now called “The Body and Blood of Christ,” since we share both species at Communion. This should remind us that the primary focus of our attention and devotion should be on the celebration of Eucharist itself. Christ gave us the Eucharist to eat and drink. The experience of Communion is meant to unify us more deeply as one body in Christ. The purpose of the celebration of the Eucharist, as St. Thomas Aquinas insisted, is the unity of the church. While we believe that the bread and wine are truly transformed into the Body and Blood of the Lord, the more important goal is the transformation of

the communicants into the body of Christ in the world today.

The Reserved Sacrament is primarily for those who are ill, hospitalized, in convalescent homes, assisted living facilities, or who are homebound and only secondarily for private devotion and adoration.

### ***Deanery Pilgrimage***

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, is the date for our Deanery Pilgrimage at the Cathedral. We will travel by bus from the parish parking lot, leaving at 8:15 a.m. in order to arrive at the Cathedral by 9:15 a.m.

The procession into the Cathedral begins at the foot of the Pilgrim's Path at 9:30 a.m. with the Celebration of Eucharist beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Fr. Mark Wiesner, Missionary of Mercy for the Diocese**, will be our Presider and Homilist. The clergy of the Deanery will concelebrate. A joint Choir, under the direction of **Ed**

**Magistrado** from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, will direct the music with assistance from Music Directors and instrumentalists from each parish. The liturgical ministries will be facilitated by ministers from each of the 8 parishes.

We need the following ministers to represent our parish: Parish Banner Bearer, one Greeter, one Usher, representation from each of our ethnic groups wearing native dress; someone who speaks any of the following languages: Portuguese, Igbo, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Italian/Sicilian. The liturgy will be multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

At the conclusion of the liturgy at approximately 12:00 Noon, we will return to the parish by bus. The cost of the bus per person is \$20 and we will be able to take 110 parishioners, not counting those who will need to drive

themselves and be at the Cathedral earlier than 9:15 a.m. (musicians, liturgical ministers, etc.). You may reserve your place on the bus by contacting the parish office.

### ***Installation Liturgy***

You are invited to the Liturgy of Installation for me as your Pastor on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. We will celebrate Sung Evening Prayer. Fr. Jerry Brown will preside at the installation and Fr. George Griener, SJ will be the homilist. Music for the liturgy will be under the direction of **Don Pearson**, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence, along with our Parish Choir and Cantors. Following the Liturgy, you are invited to join us for a festive reception in the tent which is being planned and facilitated by **Marla Plurkowski and the Social Events Committee**. If you wish to help in any way, please contact Marla.

### ***Summer Support***

Please be mindful that even though we are able to go away on vacation, the bills and the financial obligations of the parish do not! The cost of ministries, programs, outreaches, and staffing continue through the summer months. It would be very helpful and gratefully appreciated by the Finance Council if all our parishioners send in your tithes and offerings before you go away or make them up as soon as possible when you return. Thank you for all you do to keep us financially stable.

### ***Thank You***

...to our volunteer parishioners who do such a great job of cleaning and maintaining the church each week: **Mila Rodrigo, Nancy Santos, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Jun Bajet, Emilia Freking, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our parishioner volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall each week:

**Robert Goncalves, Mila Rodrigo, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Gino Ramos.**

....to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Melodye Costanza, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

....to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Lorraine Lohmeier and Barbara Jackson.**

....to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho and Vangie Parrilla.**

***Relay For Life Pasta Dinner – From Alicia Perez***

I want to absolutely thank all our parishioners and friends for making our Pasta Dinner fundraiser such a great success!

We had many compliments on Dave's cooking, the fabulous silent auction items and super raffle prizes!

The success was due to the hard work by our Relay Team Members! The evening went along so smoothly and without hitches. Thank you to our set up crew: **Jose Palomino, Jose Perez, Don Benson, and Rich Confetti.** Thank you **Bob Plurkowski** for leading us in prayer before the meal. Thank you to our cooking staff: **Dave Costanza, Carole Miller, Tomas Lucia, Al Cosce, Mark Costanza, Jason (new crew member) Brian McCoy and Vicki McCoy.** Thank you to our door and raffle ticket

ladies - **Pam Confetti, Marla Plurkowski and Lorraine Lohmeier,** Thank you to our wonderful servers: **Isabel Cage and her daughter Christina Cage and Maryann Peddicord.**

Maryann (our St. Ignatius of Antioch Co-Capt. along with myself) gave a wonderful "Why I Relay" speech which was very moving and from the heart.

Thank you to our Drink Station crew: **Jose Perez, Bobby Zabroski, and Jose Palomino.**

Thank you to our Raffle Prize and Silent auction Donors: **Marla Plurkowski, Melodye Costanza, Carol Huff, Lorraine Lohmeier, Patty Zupo, Pat Dunleavy, Mary Ewing, Isabel Cage, Estrella Rusk, Rachel Martin and Jose Perez, Jr.**

Last but not least, thanks to the "Nite Notes" jazz band under the direction of **Jim Peddicord,** for a night filled with smooth jazz numbers!

Our relay is in dire need of water and canned goods. If anyone is able to donate these items, it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a Purple Tub in the Narthex for canned goods (these will be given to St. Vincent de Paul after the Relay event). Cases of water can be set next to the tub. Thank you and may God continue to bless you all. This year's event raised \$2,411 which has been donated to the American Cancer Society.

With much appreciation and blessings,

Alicia Perez and Maryann Peddicord,  
Co-Capt., St. Ignatius of Antioch Relay  
for Life Team

