

## Living the Spirit Corpus Christi

Once again our liturgical calendar calls upon us to reflect seriously on the gift of Jesus to all of us at the Last Supper. We may recall how our early teachers told us that in a special way at every Mass we, as it were, were present on that night. If you want to know just what can be learned from imagining such a wonder, you would have to read St. John's Gospel account of the Lord's beautiful words to His disciples. I have always been led by them to a feeling of spiritual joy for having the gift of faith. It is as if one comes to know Jesus more intimately as one's friend. Indeed, He tells us He calls us not his servants only, but rather friends. To know Jesus' love for us is a great joy.

In the Eucharist Jesus desires to be intimately with us. His presence may be mystical, sacramental - theologians struggle to find the right words – but it is very real. I recall that when Luther was asked why he believed Jesus was present in this sacramental way, his answer was very simple, “He (Jesus) said so. Therefore He is.”

Today we hear of those who answer various polls telling the inquisitors they do not believe in the Real Presence. To this I must wonder how the question is asked. But I am not deceived. Many are throwing away their faith and embracing a different spirit. It is a spirit of this world. They desire secular societies, filled with every kind of morally unacceptable ways of life.

In a former insert on the subject of this feast I spoke of my earliest days of receiving Holy Communion. As a child I was filled with awe; but it was a rather ordinary reception of the Sacrament. Perhaps it is interesting to note that in my old age I recall bits and pieces of the past. I recall Mrs. Miller, a parishioner and friend reminding me that I had forgotten to fold my hands when I went to Communion. And no one had the courage to ignore Mrs. Miller. [By the way I dearly loved her. She was one of those who handed out great treats.]

Holy Communion is a great sign of our faith community. We should not and do not approach the altar to receive, unless we believe. Yes, some with great faith, some ever struggling, looking for better answers to their doubts. Yet, Jesus comes to all. He even manages to become present to those who may be seen as less worthy.

As we celebrate this feast this Sunday we should examine just how our faith brings us to a reverent reception of this great Sacrament. We should know in our hearts that Jesus is with us. How we should praise Him, thank Him, tell Him our need and concerns, ask for grace after grace! What a precious time it is. Let us use it well.

I would like to use this page to print out two prayers that the Church gives for our devotion to the Eucharist. At the same time I know that the Lord wants your words. I myself from time to time find myself tongue-tongued of soul and so use such prayers. And need I add that sometimes silence may be just what the Lord expects of us. Never be afraid to speak from your heart to the Lord united to you and really express within you. He has called you His friend.

*Anima Christi*  
*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.*  
*Body of Christ, save me.*  
*Blood of Christ, inebriate me.*  
*Water from the side of Christ, wash me.*  
*Passion of Christ, strengthen me*  
*O good Jesus, hear me.*  
*Within thy wounds hide me.*  
*Suffer me not to be separated from thee.*  
*From the malicious enemy defend me.*  
*In the hour of my death call me*  
*and bid me come unto thee,*  
*that with Thy saints I may praise thee*  
*forever and ever. Amen.*

In saying this prayer, do we not see how many requests we ask of Jesus? Yet these are what we may well need to make our life a successful journey from God to God. Let us not be shy, as it were, but ask for salvation, courage and strength, forgiveness of our sins, holiness. Let us at least for a moment realize that we are meant to come into a new life when this is over. Would we not want to be with those saints and praise Jesus? I would. How about you?

*O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine,*  
*All praise and all thanksgiving be ever moment Thine.*

This short prayer is well known and has even been set to music in one form or another. When we can't think of anything else, it is an easy memory. It says it all.

*O God who in this wonderful Sacrament*  
*Have left us a memorial of your Passion,*  
*Grant us, we pray,*  
*So to revere the sacred mystery of your Body and Blood*  
*That we may always experience in ourselves*  
*The fruits of your Redemption,*  
*Who live and reign with God the Father*  
*In the unity of the Holy Spirit,*  
*One God for ever and ever. Amen*

*God love you always!*  
*Monsignor Morrison.*