

June 06, 2021
Corpus Christi
Ex 24:3-8
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
Heb 9:11-15
Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!

St. John Chrysostom (344-407), one of the gems in our Catholic Church during the 4th century, reflecting on the Holy Eucharist, says: **"What is the Bread actually? The Body of Christ. What do communicants become? The Body of Christ. Just as the bread comes from many grains, which remain themselves and are not distinguished from one another because they are united, so we are united with Christ."**

Do you noticed the two banners hanging here in front? That's what St. John Chrysostom was talking about – **the Holy Eucharist** as the **Body of Christ** and **the Church** as the **Body of Christ!**

What does our presence here challenge us to be? Why are we here? We are here, not just to receive the Body of Christ, but to be the Body of Christ in the world. If our presence here is merely to receive the Body of Christ without the desire to be the Body of Christ in the world, then we are not really in Communion with the Lord Jesus' will for us. We are still detached/disengaged to what he wants us to be.

We are celebrating today the **Solemnity of Corpus Christi** (The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ). As we celebrate this feast, let me share with you some words from holy men and women in our Catholic Church who received the Body of Christ and tried to be the Body of Christ in the world.

- 1. St. John Paul II – "The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world."**
- 2. St. Damien of Moloka'i – "Without the Blessed Sacrament a position like mine would be intolerable."**
- 3. St. Teresa of Avila - "I am quite sure that if we could but once approach the Most Holy Sacrament with great faith and love, it would suffice to make us rich. How much more so if we approach it often!"**
- 4. St. Teresa of Calcutta - "When the Sisters are exhausted, up to their eyes in work; when all seems to go awry, they spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This practice has never failed to bear fruit: they experience peace and strength."**

5. St. Peter Julian Eymard – “Hear Mass daily; it will prosper the whole day. All your duties will be performed the better for it, and your soul will be stronger to bear its daily cross. The Mass is the most holy act of religion; you can do nothing that can give greater glory to God or be more profitable for your soul than to hear Mass both frequently and devoutly. It is the favorite devotion of the saints.”

Clearly, these holy men and women did not merely/simply receive the Body of Christ. They made a conscious effort to be the Body of Christ in the world. Thus, they were able to inspire/bring others closer to Christ!

Here in our parish, we have glimpses of people who, after receiving the Body of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, are consciously making an effort to be the Body of Christ in the world.

- **Look on your left and you will see the new parish hall – isn't that a proof that when we, the Church – the Body of Christ – come and work together the seemingly impossible becomes possible?** *(I would like to confess this to you – five (5) years ago when we floated this dream of having a new parish hall, they were some voices in the community who tried to discourage me. They were one in saying that the parish cannot afford it. **Can you imagine if I listened to their voices?** We will still be using the tent up to now for our gathering. Thanks be to God that the people who received the Body of Christ in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist embraced the call to come and work together as the Body of Christ in the world.)*
- **Look up and you will see new lights and new ceiling fans installed.** This work was done by people who are receiving the Body of Christ and, with grateful hearts, are trying to be engaged in the life of the Church – the Body of Christ. They are quietly giving their services without expecting anything in return.
- **Look at the grounds outside.** It is well kept. This is being attained because of people who went beyond just attending the Mass on Sundays. As the Body of Christ, they accepted the challenge to share their time every week, for many years now, to make sure that the grounds are nice and clean.
- The beautiful music in our liturgical celebrations and the various ministries we have here in our parish are manifestations/expressions of people who are trying to become what they have received – the Body of Christ!

There are a lot of works to be done. We need cleaners for the Church, for the new hall, and for the cemetery next to Kauai Memorial Garden for example. These works

can be done by the Body of Christ who are willing to share their time generously for the good of the parish. *(I am not asking for the same people. I am asking for new ones who are not afraid to become what they have received.)* **Are you the one we are looking for?**

In a little while, we will be receiving the Eucharist – **the Body of Christ**. Let us pray for each other to go beyond just receiving it. Let us beg the Lord Jesus to help us become his Body in the world. If we do, then we can truly say – we are in Communion with Him! And with Him, we can surely make a difference in the world.

God bless us all!