

## Homily 11<sup>th</sup> June, Corpus Christi

Today the Church is celebrating the solemnity of Corpus Christi. On this day we publicly proclaim three great mysteries of our Christian faith. First, we proclaim our faith that, in Jesus the Eternal God has taken our human flesh and blood, shared our human nature, secondly it reminds us that the Church is the mystical body of Christ, thirdly through this feast we publicly proclaim our faith that in the Eucharist Jesus, the God incarnated continues his presence in our world in a real way. In this homily I have borrowed some of the thoughts of Pope Francis homily on the feast of Corpus Christi in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on June 14, 2020.

Pope begins by saying Eucharist is a sacrament, the tangible presence of Jesus, not virtual but real presence. Eucharist is not a symbolic meal, it is a real meal, real presence. In the Eucharist we eat the body of Christ broken and blood poured out on the cross. In the homily pope Francis reminds us of the fact that the Eucharist is not a fast food take away, it is participation in a wedding banquet, it involves physical presence of Jesus in the form of bread and wine, enabling the participants to have face to face encounter with Jesus. In the Gospel of today have heard this from Jesus himself in an unmistakable way: "I am the bread that came down from heaven. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Anyone who eats the bread will have eternal life in him".

Highlighting the effect of Eucharist in our life Pope Francis says the Eucharist brings us the father's faithful love. It gives us Jesus' love, which transforms us to his brothers and sisters. It fills our hearts with the consoling love of the Holy Spirit, who never leaves us alone and always heals our wounds. Through the Eucharist, the Lord heals our negative memories. Every time we receive him in the Eucharist, Jesus reminds us that we are precious to him, we are his friends with whom he wants to dine. When we are weighing down with our failures, troubles, uncertainties, problems at home, at work Jesus' present in the Eucharist fills us with Joy and makes us ministers of joy.

The Lord, offering himself to us in the simplicity of Eucharist bread help us to overcome our hunger for material things and kindles our desire to share the material blessings we have with our brothers and sisters in need. It challenges to abandon our comfortable and lazy lifestyle and reminds us that we are not only mouths to be fed, but also his hands, to be used to help feed others. The Eucharist push us to take care of those who hunger for food and for dignity.

I would like to share with you an inspiring story a young boy and his little sister on this day when we remember the Eucharist, the self-sacrifice of Jesus. Some years ago, a little girl named Liz, she was suffering from rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be by blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother who recovered miraculously from same sickness and had developed antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked her little brother if he could give his blood to his sister and save her life. He thought for a moment and said "yes you can take my blood if that can save my sister. As transfusion progressed, he lay next his sister and smiled when he saw the colour returning to his sister's cheek. Then his face grew pale, and smile faded. The he looked at the doctor and in fear asked "will I start die right away? The little boy had misunderstood the doctor he thought he had to give all his blood to save his sister. No, child, you have saved your sister, both of you will not die. In the Eucharist we recall how Jesus emptied himself, his blood on the cross to save us from eternal death. Today let us ask the Lord to increase our faith in the Eucharist.