

A.M.D.G.

Homily, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 22nd, 2025, Year C

“This is my body that is for you.”

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. We call it *Holy Communion*, when we receive the body and blood of Christ at Mass. As with almost everything in the Catholic Faith, the name or phrase indicates a profound mystery, and yet its simplicity often obscures its meaning. *Holy Communion*, as it states, is not just a sharing of food, not just a community gathering, not even just an experience of human communion. It is a *holy communion*.

What does that mean? Jesus himself describes His communion with them in the Last Supper discourse of John’s Gospel. He states, *“In that day you will know that I am in the Father, and you in me, and I in you.”* (Jn. 14:20) This is the *holy communion*, “you in me, and I in you.” Now there is a spiritual reality here that is truly mystical, that is beyond comprehension. But we can use human analogies to approximate to the mystery, in order to get a glimpse of it. Perhaps the closest analogy is the union of human love. In human love, the one loved comes to dwell in the lover in some way. The lover keeps the beloved in his mind, thinking about her with affection, and keeps her in his heart, longing to be with her, committed in his will to do what he can for her, and the beloved reciprocates all of these acts. Indeed, even her joys and sorrows become his joys and sorrows, for he chooses to partake of them, and the goods that she desires, he desires for her and with her. There is a union of thought, will and affections, and a union of action. They lovers think, feel, and will together. That is a real human communion.

Now apply this analogy to *Holy Communion* with Jesus in the Eucharist. Insofar as we really enter into this communion with Jesus, we come to think about him more and more. We come to desire to be with him, and to serve him. But more than that, his thoughts become our thoughts, we think like him, and we feel with him, we love others as he loves them. There is a union of thought, will, and action. We see this so beautifully manifested in the life of the saints. St. Augustine in the *Confessions* states, *“you are more inward to me than my most inward part,”* (Conf. 3.6.11) that is, Jesus is in his most intimate thoughts and feelings. Mother Teresa perceived and loved the poorest of the poor with the *thirst of Jesus on the cross*. Reciprocally, Jesus holds us in his mind, and has a place for us in His heart. He draws us close to Himself, and we are strengthened by his constant loving presence, so that we can say with St. Paul, *“I can do*

all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philip. 4:13) There is one huge difference between human communion and *Holy Communion*. Our thoughts, affections, and desires do not become Jesus’ thoughts, affections and desires. He does not conform himself to us, but we to Him. The only thing of ours that he shares in us is our life as a whole, so that he lives with us in our living, and then, he makes our sufferings His own. If we are in communion with Christ, we never suffer alone.

This mystery of *Holy Communion* calls from us a profound humility and receptivity. Every time we receive the Eucharist we should open up our hearts to Jesus, and let him in. Receive His presence in our souls, long to be in communion of love with Him. If we could fully and completely receive Him into our hearts one time in Holy Communion, we would be completely transformed.

This is truly Good News, News that we must proclaim boldly, and live authentically, in our time. Because we are in a time that needs the Eucharist. There is a reason why the younger generation of Catholics is so drawn to the Eucharist, to Mass, to Eucharistic Adoration. Because the Eucharist is one powerful remedy for the *epidemic of loneliness* that the US Surgeon General decried a few years ago. Many people live without love, without friends, in a sort of technologically saturated isolation. Their souls are crying out for friendship, for love, and deepest of all, for communion.

“If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (Jn. 14:23)