

Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
Genesis 14:18-20
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Luke 9:11-17

A. Text/Context

- Today, we are celebrating the Feast of the Corpus Christi. The words are in Latin and it means the Body of Christ
- Much of the credit why the Corpus Christi becomes a feast in the Church is through St. Juliana of Liege in Belgium
- The Church realized that there is not a single feast in the Church where the body of Christ is commemorated as Christ's gift of the Eucharist
- From the year 1258 onwards, the feast is celebrated in the Church
- The gospel today speaks about the multiplication of the loaves and fish very much related to the Eucharist
- The word fish is ichthys in Greek a combination of letters which means Jesus Christ himself in early Christianity
- The bread that they ate symbolizes the body and blood of Christ in the holy mass that we are now celebrating
- This is the body and blood of Christ which we always receive during the Holy Communion in the form of a host
- We remember in the miracle of Fatima the 3 children received a vision where the host is suspended in the air and blood drips from the host going to the chalice
- Technically speaking, the flesh contains blood as it comes out when we are wounded
- Even though that most of the time you only receive the body or the host, there is already the blood component in the flesh
- Because even in an ordinary flesh there is always the presence of blood
- It was a beautiful apparition of the mystery of the Eucharist where the angel has shown to the children that the host or the body already has the component of the blood
- It was during the horrors of the crucifixion when the Jews saw real blood dripping from

the wounds of Jesus as his flesh was ripped and torn to pieces by the scourging at the pillar the crowning with thorns, the crucifixion, the piercing by the lance of the soldier where the blood of Jesus oozed like a fountain from his sides

- There was so much blood then in Calvary. What is the reason?
- Because Jesus himself offered his very own blood for the salvation of humanity
- Now we are celebrating the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We are now celebrating the memorial of the bloody sacrifice on the cross
- The sacrifice of the mass is now the unbloody reenactment and memorial of the sacrifice that occurred on the cross in Calvary
- The blood of Christ has cleansed our souls from the stain of sin
- This is the meaning of the Corpus Christi. Eating the bread and drinking the wine means receiving Jesus in our life, and receiving the life he offers for us in the cross
- We then ask the question: Why is it that we are told that the bread is the body of Christ and the wine is the blood of Christ
- There is a very simple answer: because Jesus said so. We cannot refute the very words that Jesus himself has said
- It is his body and his blood because he said so. No more, no less

B. Human Situation

- My dear brothers and sisters, we are now celebrating the mass and later on we will have communion
- The holy mass is like a banquet where the guests who attend eat and drink together what the host has prepared
- The host of the party would be surprised if the guests he invited would not eat what he has prepared. He would be insulted
- So this is the problem that we have as Christians. We are not so catechized. Most of us lacked the basics of Catechism
- Here in this mass, we have the rite of cleansing, we make a general confession, I confess...

- After that we beg for the mercy of God to forgive our sins. Lord have mercy ...
- And the priest will pray May almighty God...
- Now do you think God will not forgive us? What I mean is that the little sins that we commit are already forgiven during the mass
- We are already cleansed in the penitential rite. And also this is very important, the guilt of the sins that we commit depends greatly on the consequences or effect of the sin that we did
- You stole a hundred pesos but the result is that the whole family went hungry the entire day. You need to be terribly sorry for that sin
- So you see, there are really no strict rules in the reception of the Eucharist. It is to be understood in the eyes of faith
- After all Jesus himself will be the judge in the end if we are guilty or not
- The bland taste of the host we receive will even be less meaningful if we will not understand the Eucharist in the eyes of faith

C. Challenge

- So today in this feast of the Corpus Christi we are challenged and called to appreciate the gift of the Eucharist, the bread that we receive in the form of a host
- That this is the bread that forgives our sins, that this is the bread that cleanses our souls
- And it must deepen our love and faith to our Lord and most of all, it must deepen our love to our neighbors
- The benchmark of a true Christian who faithfully receives the Eucharist is how much he or she has grown in his or her love of neighbor
- Let it be that as we continue to receive the Eucharist, it will be a communion of love, glory, and salvation, not a communion of condemnation and punishment
- In this way, the Corpus Christi or the gift of the Eucharist, will become the summit and the source of our Christian life