

June 7, 2015

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ ~ *Corpus Christi* (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

Last week we celebrated the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God comes to us individually in a special way in the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is present in the Catholic Church. It also dwells in the world. Because of this we should always be open to the possibility of the Holy Spirit being anywhere. It is not pinned down-it inspires wherever it wishes. This should leave us open to the possibility that even outside our own Catholic Church the Spirit is working to help make a better place.

Today we celebrate a very specific presence of God in our Catholic Church: the Eucharist. When we celebrate Mass we believe that Jesus, the Son of God, is really present to us under the appearances of bread and wine. When we receive Holy Communion, the Son of God comes to us. This is the definite source of God's grace. When we celebrate Mass with the priest, we don't need our emotions to tell us that God is present. Here is where Catholics find in a very concrete way the grace of God. It is a mystery but this faith has held our spiritual lives together. It is the main reason that Catholicism still remains after two thousand years.

Thanks to the Sisters of Charity, we were given all the plants in their garden in the "backyard" of Mary the Queen on Vark Ave. With the help of our cemetery workers, I have been transplanting many of their flowers into our convent garden. While the rainstorms of the past week have been awful in many ways, they have made the transplanting of the plants much easier. I can tell that their garden has been well tended over the years. I asked who the gardener was. To my delight, I found that it was a Sister of Charity who was a classmate of mine in the first grade of St. Nicholas of Tolentine School in the Bronx. How is that for coincidence? While I am on the subject, I hope everyone knows the difference between "annual" and "perennial" flowers. I almost lost my cool two weeks ago when a passerby criticized me for letting the beautiful tulips die.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, May 31, 2015 was \$2,746.00.

The second collection today Sunday June 7, 2015 will be for the Catholic Missions among Black and Indian People.

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ ~ *Corpus Christi*: Today we celebrate *Corpus Christi*, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. In the Eucharistic feast, the gift of bread and wine really and truly become the **Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ**. Through this covenant of love, **God** draws us into his divine life and offers us food for our earthly pilgrimage to continue with faith and hope, confident in **God's** ability to transform our weaknesses and sufferings into life and joy.

In the first reading, Exodus 24:3-8: the people Moses led out of Egypt had gone through a death of their old ways of life and were now on a journey toward the land and life God planned for them.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 116:13: "I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord"

In the second reading, Hebrews 9:11-15: The letter to the Hebrews proclaims that Christ has opened a new tabernacle in the dwelling place of God. Paul speaks of Christians as new dwelling places for God, as temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, Mark 14:13-16, 22-26: Jesus takes bread and wine, and offers them to his disciples. Like the ancient covenants that were ratified with a meal, Jesus offers himself as the efficacious sacrifice to seal the new covenant with his blood.

Today's Focus; *The Blood of the Covenant*: Jesus continually cautioned his followers about restricting this understanding of how broad God's love and salvation are; his words still speak to us today.

Question of the Week: If we believe that Christ's blood was shed for all, what day-to-day difference should this make in how I treat people?

Praying with the Word: Lord Jesus Christ, through your Body and Blood you give to us the gift of your boundless love; Help us who have received this gift to share it with others. Amen



Lord, grant us the awesome gift of meeting you.



Religious Education News:

- ❖ Registration for the 2015-2016 Religious Education classes will begin on June 15th.
- ❖ Registration will be on Mondays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Thursdays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Saturdays by appointment only.
- ❖ Please bring your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate when registering your child for the first time.
- ❖ Last day of registration will be August 13th.