

## *Thoughts from the Rectory ...*

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

This week we continue on these Sundays of Ordinary Time celebrating and rejoicing in the great mysteries of our Faith, reflective in our daily lives. As we were given over to contemplation of the Most Holy Trinity, this week we ponder the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist. On this Solemnity of Corpus Christi, that is the Body and Blood of Christ, we come to an encounter of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity in a profound and intimate way.

Today's solemnity leads us to consider the reality of the Incarnation, the eternal Word made flesh, in the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus not only walks among us in body and soul as He did with the disciples so many centuries ago, but offers Himself to us as Living Bread and Precious Blood. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you" (Jn 6:53-54). Our Blessed Lord makes this bold claim in the company of those who would follow Him and those who are curious about His teachings. Such a bold claim is hard to believe and sadly many no longer followed and protestation remains to this day. Yet, the Lord effects the very reality by which we eat His flesh and drink His blood. Leaning upon and anticipating the Eucharistic table that is the Altar of Sacrifice, Jesus "took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many'" (Mk 14:22-24).

The Eucharist is the flesh and blood of Jesus, by His own words. Just as He broke the bread and shared the cup, offering the sacrifice of His life and death upon the Cross once for all, He offers the Eucharistic

sacrifice for us at each and every Mass. It is His Body, it is His Blood. The words are His own. The sacrifice and priesthood His.

Today, He continues to offer and share. He continues to invite us to take and receive. At the altar of the Eucharistic table we all have a place. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6:56). Our priests offer their lives, their voice, their very being, standing in the Person of Jesus, sharing His sacrifice. Our faithful offer their strength, their witness, their daily works in the image and likeness of God adoring the Lamb of sacrifice, sharing His life. Our men and women, young and old, parents and children, single and married, lost and found, near and far, are all called to communion in Christ. May we be prepared and ready for this Holy Communion. May we be reconciled, in deed and in sacrament, to the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit. May we know the dignity that is ours, redeemed in Christ and invited to share in His sacrifice of flesh and blood, Corpus Christi.

*St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!*

**Fr. Pierz**