

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – “Corpus Christi” – June 9/10, 2020 – Reflection

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”

(I Corinthians 10:16)

Back when I was a real little kid, when my parents would take me to church on Sundays, the Mass was celebrated in Latin, so a small child like I was couldn't really understand much of what was going on, much of what was being said. But, I used to pretend, when I got home from church, that I could speak another language. Me and my friends would roam all over our neighborhood speaking our secret language, especially when we'd pass grownups. We thought our babbling sounded mysterious and exotic. The adults must've thought we were idiots!

As I got a little older, I began to be able to pick out little phrases from the Latin of the Mass. I remember the last words that the priest would sing at the high Mass (probably because it took him so long to sing 'em!) ... “Ite, missa est;” ... “Go, the Mass is ended;” ... or “Go, you are sent.” Most of the Mass just seemed about a lotta words but this, right at the end, was action, movement, energy ... “Go, you are sent!”

I've always loved words, paid attention to words. Remember when you were back in school and learned all about sentences and nouns and verbs and subjects and predicates? I'd like you to listen to a simple sentence that even a kindergartener or first grader could read ... ready?

Dogs bark.

Dogs bark.

What's the subject of the sentence, the noun? Right ... "Dogs".

And, what's the verb, the predicate, the action word? Right again ... "Bark".

A subject can't be a predicate. A noun can't be a verb. A predicate can't be a subject and a verb can't be a noun, no matter how much it might wanna be! A noun is a thing and a verb is an action ... or is it?

Let's take a look at our simple sentence again ... "Dogs bark." There's a noun and a verb ... we said a noun can't be a verb and a verb can't be a noun. A noun just sits there while a verb is all antsy and go, go, go!

But what if we change things up a little? "Bark" is our verb, right? What if we say this? "The bark of an oak tree is very rough." Now "bark" ain't doin' nothin' it's jus' sittin' around like a lazy ole noun!

And, how 'bout this from "Dogs bark."? "The day laborer dogs it every time the boss isn't lookin'!" Now "dogs" ain't describing no puppy, it's an action that means "goofing off," "lazing around." Granted, it's not much of an action, but it's a verb!

So, I guess sometimes a noun can change its spots and become a verb while a verb can go on a sit-down strike and become a noun.

Today is the feast of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Most of us call that "Communion". "Communion" is a noun that refers to the wafer of bread we receive, the sip of wine we take at the Communion Rite of the Mass. I know "Communion" is a noun because we refer to "Communion" as "it", as in, "I received it in my hand," or as "that", as in, "Oh, I received that when I was seven years old."

But, what if we changed "Communion" from a noun to a verb? What if "Go, you are sent," at the end of Mass were to use "Communion" as a verb like, "Go, Communionize the world," what would that action be? It would be sacrificing for others as Jesus did. It would be remembering ... remembering what Jesus said, what Jesus taught, how Jesus remembered His scattered flock and brought them together as the Church ... it would be reaching out to bring people who have strayed home to God. It would be sharing the meal that feeds not only the body but also the spirit.

Eucharist ... Communion is NOT an "it"! Communion is an action ... "participating in the body and blood of Christ," ... a verb: "Communionize", bringing the Son of the Living God to a world, our own families and friends, starving for the living Bread, the Word made flesh that gives life to all who receive.

And you, you are not an "it", a "that", that sits around like a bump on a log. Go, you are sent to be Communion, to be another Christ, to "Communionize" the world!

So, what are you waiting for? Ah yes, Holy Communion!