



## YEAR B – CORPUS CHRISTI - 2018

Today we celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus - known in earlier days as the feast of Corpus Christi. I remember when we built our church 27 years ago. Some people were concerned that the Tabernacle was not placed on the main Altar - or on the center axis of the main church as it was in the past.

The question was asked by some who were offended, "Do we no longer believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?" Clearly, we do! It is an article of our faith - that Jesus is *really, truly and substantially* present under the appearance of bread and wine after the words of consecration.

Why then move the Tabernacle? It was moved to the Chapel of Reservation because it is reserved for people who are sick and for the overflow of people at any given Mass here in the church. The focus of attention in our church is the Altar - where the Sacrament and Sacrifice of Jesus are renewed each time we celebrate Mass. The Altar is not the place of reservation. It is the place where we do what Jesus asked us to do. We do it in memory of him.

Our church building is not the Church. It becomes a Church each time the people are gathered around the altar and the bread and wine are consecrated. The Word of God is proclaimed for all to hear and we acknowledge the presence of Jesus in each person present.

There is a marvelous story told about Abbe Pierre, the Apostle to the poor in France. One night he was out on the street and it was an unusually cold and rainy night. He found a young man and woman with their little boy. They had nothing to eat and were literally freezing on the streets. He brought them to his humble dwelling which was already crowded with people who were in need. Since there was no room anywhere else, he took the Blessed Sacrament out of the chapel where it was warm and cozy and clean. He put the Holy Sacrament up in the attic where was dark and dirty and damp. He put the young family in the chapel where he let them sleep for the night after he gave them something to eat.

In the morning the Abbot was upset with Abbe Pierre because of what he had done to the Blessed Sacrament. Abbe Pierre replied, "Jesus was not freezing in the Blessed Sacrament, but he was freezing in that little boy and his parents". The point of Abbe Pierre was as clear to the Abbot as it is to us.

You cannot adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and at the same time ignore him in our brothers and sisters. They are members of the Mystical Body of Christ. And so are we.

It is the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. "He is not made of plaster or stone. He is not made of metal or bronze. He is living throbbing flesh. He sleeps under bridges. He has tuberculosis, he suffers hunger, loneliness, and fear. We believe that whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we do to him. The sad thing is we do not realize what we believe".



Take time to realize what you believe.