

Sunday Homily for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi - June 3rd, 2018

Today's celebration of The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ better known as **Corpus Christi** is a celebration that is at the center of the Church's liturgical life and worship.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church in section 1376 makes it clear that by the consecration of the **bread** and **wine**, on the altar takes place a change of the whole substance of bread into the Body of Christ and the whole substance of wine into the Blood of Christ. This changing of one substance into another is called **Transubstantiation**. In other words, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that once an ordained priest blesses the bread of the Lord's Supper, it is transformed into the real flesh of Christ **(although it retains the appearance and taste of bread)**; and when he blesses the wine, it is transformed into the real blood of Christ **(although it retains the appearance and taste of wine)**

However, my concern today is on what I personally call "**second transubstantiation or transformation.**"

The first transubstantiation happens on the altar of sacrifice at the moment of consecration when the priest lays his hands over the bread and wine and says "**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall**"

Even though, the second transubstantiation happens on our souls at the moment of reception of the consecrated bread and wine. In this second transubstantiation, we see the substantial change effected on the soul and heart of the recipient by divine grace. The soul of the recipient becomes "**Transubstantiated**" and in it, Jesus Christ becomes present.

The main difference between the first and the second transubstantiation is the degree to which the substance is transubstantiated. In the first, the bread and wine become metaphysically transformed into the real body and blood of Christ with the qualities of permanent presence and adorability. But in the second transubstantiation, the recipient becomes "God's holder."

Jesus Christ spoke of this second transubstantiation when he said "**my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood remain in me and I in them.**" Since it has always been believed that we become what we eat, it then follows that those who eat the Holy Eucharistic become a Eucharistic person, carrying in them Jesus who is our Lord and Savior.

The idea behind my reflection is to enable us to understand better what happens when we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. My interest is on what happens to each one of us after receiving the body and blood of Jesus because the Holy Eucharist is Christ's sacrifice to the Father through the Holy Spirit and in receiving it, we should also offer ourselves as living and acceptable sacrifices to the Lord for the good of the whole universe.

Let us praise and thank God for this great gift which enables us to be united with Christ's work of redemption in a real and close relationship.

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