

Corpus Christi. 6/6/2021

## **The Sacrament of Charity.**

We celebrate today the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Pope Benedict XVI called the Holy Eucharist the Sacrament of Charity. This is a key point. We have in the Holy Eucharist the Sacrament of the Love of God. What does that mean?

Well, how do we, as human beings, express and experience love? We love when we give of ourselves to others, for their benefit. This sharing brings a sense of closeness with each other, as we relate to the struggles and to the aspirations of other people in our human family. In loving we give of our time, give of our possessions. The more we love, the more we give, and the

more we experience the solidarity with others. Where does this end? If we are to love “to the end”, then we give ourselves, our very lives.

This is what Jesus did and continues to do for us. In sharing our human condition, he can relate to our struggles as a brother. He gave everything for us. He gave his life in the cross shedding his blood in total love for each one of us.

Then, after his death and resurrection, he never stops loving us “to the end”. The Holy Eucharist is the loving gift that Jesus Christ makes of himself, to reveal to us the infinite love of God for every man and woman.

We witness this miracle of love every time a priest consecrates the bread and wine to become the body and

blood of Christ. And Jesus is present once again to his people, to his Church, to give himself to us as food.

Other foods we transform and assimilate into our own body. In Holy Communion it is Jesus who transforms us, sharing his divinity with us, making us more like him. This personal union with God also unites us as a Church, and it compels us to go out and reflect the love of God.

Constantly nourished by the Eucharist, we become instruments of the love of God, and bring his presence to the world.

Before such blessing, we remember what we said earlier in the psalm: “How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me?” And the psalmist answers: “I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the

Lord.” This is what the Church does in every Mass: The Sacrament of Charity, the mystery of faith, the body and blood of Christ.

The sacraments of marriage and priesthood are closely tied to the Eucharist, and the union of Christ and his Church. These two vocations are two specific ways to go out in service to the world. The faithful love of husband and wife, in their mutual self-surrender, is a sign of the mystery of the union of Christ and his Church. And it is through priests, in their complete surrender to the Church, that the mystery of the Mass can be celebrated, and the people of God can be sustained by the body and blood of Christ.

Let us continue our celebration today with great joy for all the good that the LORD has done for us, with attention and reverence for the Sacrament of Charity. In the consecrated host is Jesus, loving us “to the end”, giving himself to us, to raise us to new life. Let us approach him in Holy Communion with humility and gratitude, letting him embrace us and transform us to go out into the world and fulfill our vocation.