

Bulletin Article for the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus 6.14.20

What are some memories that you have surrounding major life events that you have celebrated with your family and friends? Birthdays, Weddings, Anniversaries, Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Graduations, Retirements. And how about holidays? What are some memories that come to mind when you think about celebrating the holidays like Christmas, New Year, Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, Easter? I would be willing to bet that one common denominator in all of these celebrations is FOOD!! Isn't gathering with family and friends to celebrate something special given extra meaning when we share food together?

To gather at a meal and to serve a meal are all signs of hospitality, welcome, generosity, and love. Sharing a meal, whether it is at a special event or a daily meal to get us through the day, is an expression of love in that food is needed to sustain us; nourish us; keep us alive! Love is always other-centered, life-giving, and life-sustaining, and a very real and tangible expression of and experience of love is found in the sharing of life-sustaining food.

Eating food is needed to survive. But when we *share* food with others there is another gift of life that emerges, and this is the establishment of bonds of relationships, the nurturing and strengthening of bonds of relationships, the creation of and the sustaining us the bonds of relationship that are the foundation for community.

I think that because sharing a meal is such a strong expression of love and hospitality, because sharing a meal is so integral in creating and maintaining the bonds of community, because sharing a meal is so connected with the memories of special events in our lives, *this* is why Jesus established a *meal to share* as a remembrance of Him.

From the earliest days of the post-Resurrection era until this very day, Christians have gathered to worship by praying together, sharing Sacred Scripture, and breaking the Bread and sharing the Cup all in Memory of Jesus. At His Last Supper, Jesus instructed us, His followers to "Take and eat." and "Take and drink", and to do this in Memory of Him until He Comes again in Glory!

In this establishment of the Holy Eucharist, Jesus gives us His very Body to eat and His Precious Blood to drink: real food and real drink; a gift of Love that is food for Eternal Life. As we celebrate this wonderful gift of God giving us Himself as food to eat, may we ever be mindful of our unmerited invitation to partake of so great a meal, that through faith and love, and the Grace of this food we take into our very bodies, we may, in fact, *become* what we

receive!

~Fr. Tom Gaughan, csc