

**The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ: Cycle A**

**June 14, 2020**

**St. Columbkille-Dubuque**

**Dt. 8:2-3, 14b-16a/1 Cor. 10:16-17/Jn. 6:51-58**

**Fr. Paul Attah-Nsiah**

**“I am the living bread;  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. While we have been away from the Mass and Eucharist for several months, we have learned many lessons from this time of communion and community separation. Many of us have loved and lived our faith over many years and seasons. Others of us have not come so often but, yet, live very generous and caring lives, lives that express a hidden kind of Eucharistic love. In so doing, all who serve BECOME a real EUCHARISTIC people. Our lives have been built around a “Eucharistic Way.” What do we mean by this?

First, even though we have been away from many essential life connections, **nothing can stop grace**. Our Eucharist remains the summit, the center, the alpha and omega of love. Like manna in the desert, love’s theology continues whether we are together or not. Receiving the Eucharist – in person or by desire, Jesus makes His home in us. His love leads us even in these very challenging times. So many people, those who practice faith and those who do not seem to so visibly, have found ways to reach out – to touch the spirit and soul of those struggling, oppressed and isolated. This very real presence of love and hope is our **Eucharistic way**, a real gift.

And in these recent days, we now face a second, even more evil pandemic, that of decades and centuries old indifference, racism and bigotry. Wounds are deep because they have been ignored for so very long. For many of us, because things are going well enough for us, imagine things are well enough everywhere, or people deserve what they have or don’t have. Yet, it is becoming very clear that, it is more complicated than that. Systems, including the church, are in many ways, biased for some and against others. What we can say perhaps is: We are being awakened. And as a Eucharistic people, it becomes our responsibility to stay awake, listen, learn, and act. This is our **Eucharistic way!**

The Eucharist is the presence of the Divine **with** us creating the Divine Milleu **within** us and our community where everyone shares in opportunities to live safely, in harmony, and intentionally - putting into practice the Beatitudes that God has offered us as a practical pathway to peace. We are challenged to create a world of sufficiency, not deficiency, where no longer does the greed of some create the want of others, but where all can find a home and place at the table of life. Many are hurting. Healing takes time and effort, but most of all requires insight, ownership and change. We can lead the way. My salvation is never just about me; what I need, want or merit. Each of us must work for a truly justice, world having equity, peace, sustainability, accountability, fraternity and mercy as the rightful need of the day. This is the **Eucharistic way!**

And finally, I believe this weekend is my final weekend sharing at this Eucharistic table with you at St. Columbkille’s. I have appreciated serving you and getting to know you. I thank you for your welcoming me, coming here from Ghana, and I especially thank all of you who have helped me with the mission of building a school for the children in Ghana. We will open to the children in September. I am deeply grateful. Come July 14, I will only be down the road and if you wish to join us or stop in to visit, you will always be most welcome. As a Eucharistic family, we are always united in Spirit and joy of the Gospel we share. As I conclude, I offer this prayer that we can say together for ourselves and our world.

## **Prayer**

Gentle and gracious God, may I have the courage to allow myself to be transformed by the Body and Blood of Your Son. As You make your home in me, may I become like You, having the fortitude to model my life after You, whatever the cost.

May the Eucharist that is my comfort and strength, become my turning point, giving me the strength and conviction to lead this world in some way with an outreach that touches the need of someone else. May I commit to greater understanding, to better listening, to welcome openness, and ready reconciliation. May I not only build bridges but be a bridge to fullness of life for others who pray for a light in their darkness. May my Eucharistic grace become our Eucharistic pathway to unity and peace. Soul of Christ, sanctify each of us that we may become instruments of your peace. Amen