

## **Homily on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Year B**

### **Theme: The Power of the Upper Room!**

In the first reading of today (Exodus 24:3-8), Yahweh enters into a covenant with the chosen house of Israel. And by the tongue of Moses, Yahweh reveals His will to the people, and the people make a promise to live by the dictates of Yahweh. And as a seal to this covenant, Moses takes the blood of bulls and sprinkles it upon the people. The longing for God was to be theirs, at all times.

In the second reading of today (Hebrews 9:11-15), the author of the letter to the Hebrews tells us that by the oblation of His body, Jesus brought the sacrifice of old to fulfillment in the reality of the Cross, by being at once the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of Sacrifice. By this, He secured for us an eternal redemption.

In the Gospel reading of today (Mark 14:12-16, 22-26), Jesus instructs two of His disciples to go and make ready a place for the celebration of the Passover. He tells of the Upper room that is large, furnished and ready. This room is “large,” ... for it is big enough to contain the Lord himself. This room is “furnished,” adorned with carpets, flowers, name it all. This room is “ready” and has been since the beginning of time, because it was made for this.

And it was in this large upper room that Holy Mass was celebrated for the first time. Jesus gave His disciples His body and blood in the form of bread and wine adding: “Do this in memory of me.”

Every time we celebrate mass, we literally join Jesus and His disciples in the Upper Room, the place where God comes to meet ordinary humans; that place where the words “Do this in memory of me” are reenacted. Whenever you are in for Mass, know you are in the Upper Room, the most powerful room on earth.

But we ought to remember that unless Mass begins in the heart, we are yet to begin it. The Upper Room has to be my own heart, where Jesus ought to live. The Upper Room has to be my own heart, a heart adorned with every good thing. It is this Upper Room that should be large enough to contain the Eucharistic Lord at all times. It is this Upper Room that should be found furnished with every good thing, more so, hunger for God. And it is from this Upper Room that we ought to take everyone to Jesus and Jesus to everyone. This tells in volumes why we usually have procession with the Blessed Sacrament on this day – we are taking Jesus to everyone and everyone to Jesus.

As we commemorate today's feast, let us explore and re-explore the meaning of the Eucharist in our daily living, and ask God to deepen our hunger for His loving presence, through the powerful and irresistible prayers of the Mother of the Lord and Our Mother, the ever Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fr. Albert