

## Corpus Christi Catholic Community

### Homily for Feast of Corpus Christi - June 6, 2021

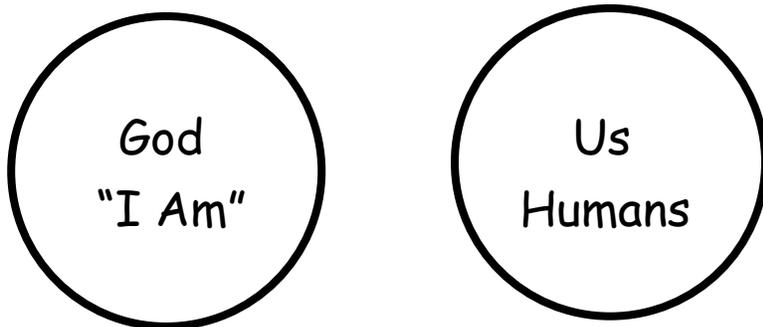
Let's all have a big round of applause for the Feast of Corpus Christi!

So, is it that city down in Texas, you know, Corpus Christi, that we are celebrating today? Of course not!

We are celebrating that fantastic, almost unbelievable realization of the Body of Christ!

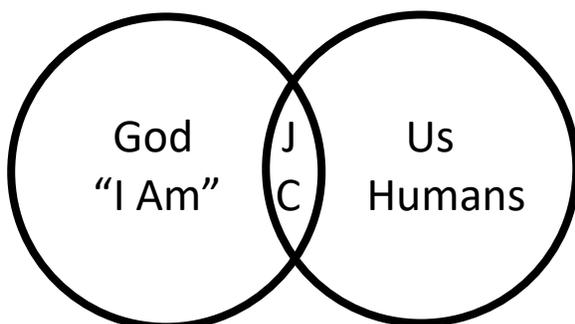
The Body of Christ - Let's take a look at the Body of Christ from a few different perspectives.

Before the time of Christ, we could view the universe this way.



God existed.

God was the great "I am", the name he gave himself when he first appeared to Moses in the burning bush. God had created us human beings and we were separate. We were here on earth.



Then, at the time of the Incarnation Jesus entered into the womb of Mary and made a fantastic connection between God and us human beings. Jesus bonded God and human beings together in a way that was dramatically different from the thousands of years of the Old Testament.

Religious artwork often uses that shape of the overlapping God circle and the human circle. Called the "almond shape" it conveys that magnificent connection between God and us human beings.



Here is a recent use of that almond shaped art. It was used with the Pope Francis year of Mercy, showing Jesus carrying a person on his very own shoulders. Jesus cares for us and Jesus carries us!

When we use the terms of "Corpus Christi", or Body of Christ, we almost immediately think of Christ's presence here with us today, here in the Eucharist, here in the Blessed Sacrament, here in the Holy Communion that we can consume, contained in our very beings. It so fits with Jesus who told the Apostles, "Do this in memory of me."

At the same time, it is absolutely mind-boggling! God cares so, so very much for us that God is willing to come to us in something so simple, so mundane, so trivial as a little, tiny piece of food. Lord, God, you are so utterly amazing!

We are so used to term "Body of Christ" but why do we say "Christ". That was not Jesus' family name. No, it was not a name but a title.

"Christ" means to be anointed with a sacred chrism or oil. What does that mean and why is it so important?

In the Old Testament people in three roles were anointed with Chrism.

1. A priest - a person of great prayer & sacrifice in the Temple
2. A prophet - a preacher, a witness for God ... Isaiah, Jeremiah,...
3. A king - a ruler who ruled in God's name ... King Solomon

The anointing created a special connection, a special bond between the person and God.

So, then, why did people call Jesus the "Christ"? Over time, as they got familiar with Jesus, they saw him act all three of those roles.

- They saw him pray alone, quietly, and with large crowds.
- They heard him preach and it reminded them of the great prophets from the Old Testament ... but he was even better than the best of them.
- They witnessed Jesus taking charge, taking control, calming storms, healing people, giving directions on what should be done and what should not be done. He topped their recollections of all the kings of the past!

They started calling Jesus "the Christ", "the Messiah", the hoped-for and promised of ages and ages ago!

Ah, yes, the Body of Christ - Corpus Christi - the Body of the Messiah!

OK. Another perspective!

Let's bring this all to the present moment.

Please raise your hand if you have been baptized.

Please raise your hand if you have been confirmed.

Please raise your hand if have received the Anointing of the Sick.

In Baptism and Confirmation we have been anointed with a Sacred Chrism (SC). Yes, the Sacred Chrism (SC) is one of those three vessels that we store in the Ambry, that small glass door in the brickwork in the back of church. Last week we baptized a baby and used that chrism. Next week we will be confirming several of our youth, also with the Sacred Chrism. [The other two vessels with oils are the Oil of the Catechumens (OC) and the Oil of the Anointing of the Sick (OI).]

No surprise!

Yes, we are anointed with chrism.

Yes, we are called to be "Christ-like"!

We are called:

- To be priestly, to pray like Jesus, to pray to Jesus
- To be prophetic, to witness for Jesus to others
- To be kingly, to take charge, to manage things for Jesus

On this great feast day, our parish, Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, can truly be described as a body, a community in these three Christ-like roles. We support each other! We care for each other.

We pray together here at Mass  
& we pray alone

We witness together in VON  
(Visiting Our Neighbors) & in SFE  
(Store-Front Evangelization)  
& we witness in our daily lives

We work together in groups,  
committees, teams, & councils  
& we work in our separate tasks.

Blessings on each and every one of us as we try, day in and day out, to live the Body of Christ ... at home, at work, in school, in recreation, in sports, in driving our cars, in shopping, in cutting the lawn, in group gatherings, in our social media, in our reading, in our emails and phone calls, ... in every breath we breathe!

Happy Feast of Corpus Christi!

***Oh! And be bold and wear our Corpus Christi T-shirts  
to let our neighbors get to know Jesus, the Christ!***