

## Corpus Christi 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, I will never forget celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi on a Thursday, during the pontificate of St. John Paul the Great. Fr. Ruzicka and I had gone to St. Peter's Basilica in the morning to celebrate mass. A sacristan asked us to join the Pontifical Mass and procession with about 500 hundred priests. Although the Mass itself was very moving, what was most moving was what happened after Communion. Each of the priests was handed a huge candle and we formed a procession with the Blessed Sacrament under a canopy. We went throughout the Basilica of St. Peter's singing (I think it was the same hymn we use on Holy Thursday evening. We moved through St. Peter's and then descended the steps and circled the entirety of the Piazza with hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world singing in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I will never forget that day as long as I live.

Corpus Christi means: The Body of Christ outside of the Mystery of the Trinity and the Incarnation, it is the most mysterious of the teachings of Christ. By this Sacrament of the Eucharist, Christ gives us Himself to remain with us, not just in the Church, and in one another, not just in the Word of God, but physically. He does not remain with us in a mere symbolical way, but in His full and complete reality. It is not just a reminder of the past, but a fulfillment of the promise of Jesus to remain with us: Emmanuel- God who is with us! The whole Christ is truly, really and substantially contained, in what appears to be bread, but, by His Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit in the actions of the Priest, is what He says it is: The Body, Blood, Soul of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who gives Himself to us as real food and real drink unto everlasting life!

The mystery of the Eucharist tells us how much Jesus loves us; He loves us so much, that He wants to be more intimate to us than our own blood! He loves us so much, that He wants His own Divine Life to flow through our veins and throughout ourselves. He loves us so much, that He wants to accompany us at every moment of our lives and throughout all eternity. Even though each of us has sinned, Christ will never abandon us; He awaits us in the Sacrament of Confession and then awaits to renew His Living Divine Presence in us.

When you and I eat a piece of bread, it becomes us, and it remains a part of our living being until we die. When we consume the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, we are so united with Him in His Divine Life that we continue to live in His Divine Life forever! We bring Him with us in all of our endeavors, except sin, and He brings us with Him for all eternity, into the very mystery of God! Whereas we see so much division in our world, our nation, our Church, Christ, by the power of His Divine Love for us, brings us into an ineffable unity with each other and with Him. Whereas death will separate us from this world and the ones we love, Christ unites us in His life! Never, never again take Holy Communion for granted! Jesus is here, and He is here always, waiting for you to come and visit Him- He keeps the light burning for you to find your way to Him!