

Feast of Corpus Christi

We celebrate our feast day.

Eleven years ago a group of forty people gathered at a retreat center to name our new parish, one about to be merged from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and St. Gerard Parish. Everyone in the parish was invited to the session. Over thirty names had been submitted for consideration and only one would be chosen. And, after a day of prayer and discernment, we chose the name, CORPUS CHRISTI.

As we gather to celebrate our feast day, I would like to reflect on two questions:

- 1. What was the original meaning of the term Corpus Christi?**
- 2. How does this feast of Corpus Christi give meaning and direction for our daily lives?**

We know that the title Corpus Christi Latin for the Body of Christ, first referred to the people of the early church. Paul speaks of ourselves as the body of Christ. We are all members. Christ is the head; we are the members. Through our baptism we are all part of the life of the risen Christ. We have died with him; we will reign with him.

I would like to show you a little video with images which shows all of us being Christ's body.

(Show the video of the face of Christ with other faces superimposed on his.)

Yes, Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ here at our parish, is made up of people born in fifteen different countries. We are part of the body of Christ throughout the world who celebrate this feast. We are God's people, redeemed in the blood of Christ.

How then does this feast of Corpus Christi give meaning and direction for our lives? **(go to the altar)**

Every time we gather, we do the same action; a simple threefold action to bread and wine which gives meaning and direction for our lives. We TAKE; we give thanks; and break the body and pour out the blood. When we take, when we give thanks, when we pour out our lives, Jesus becomes present to us. And we become more the risen Body of Christ.

(go back to the podium)

What does it mean to "take"? "To take means we realize that we are not our own. We are part of a life bigger than ourselves. We take hold of the fact that the God of life has breathed Spirit in us. Someone once asked Albert Einstein if he believe in God. He said in so many words. "Do I believe God? Do I believe in God? I am simply trying to

figure out how God put this beautiful universe together!” He realized that to take hold of our lives means who is at the center of things.

For Jesus, this “taking hold” seemed to come at his baptism in the Jordan where he became especially aware that he was loved by his Father. He was deeply affected by this experience. He took hold of and redirected his life’s work. (Pause)

I would like you to ask yourself a question: Have you taken ahold of your life? or has work or school or politics controlled and dominated your life? Do you make time to pray or does your cell phone control your life? To celebrate this feast of the Body of Christ we need to follow Jesus and take hold of our life. We need to realize with Einstein that we are not the center of our universe but that a God of care and wisdom the driving force of our lives.

After we take hold of the fact that we are part of a divine plan of God, we need to give thanks:

- Give thanks for being alive,**
- give thanks for each breath we take,**
- give thanks for our many blessings each day,**
- give thanks for a God revealed in Christ Jesus who forgives and is compassionate**

After we take hold of our lives and give thanks for our many blessings, we are called to break and share. To pour out our lives in loving service of our God and neighbor.

- **Work camp**
- **O'Hair Park**
- **Daily lives: Connie Rucker as an example**

Yes, we are the body of Christ, We are to take hold of ourselves; give thanks for our many blessings and pour ourselves out in loving service of God and others..

Jesus took bread, gave thanks . This is my body given for you. This is my blood poured out for you. Do this in memory of me.

Yes, we are Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, Let us dedicate ourselves to live out what we celebrate this day