

Body and Blood of Christ – B – 2018
Exodus 24.3-8 // Hebrews 9.11-15 // Mark 14.12-16, 22-26

→two weeks ago on the Feast of Pentecost....I spoke about the ever growing amount of people these days who don't practice their faith on a regular basis...

→I lamented the fact that there is an increasing number of people who **just don't get it** when it comes to faith...the church....to believing....to practicing

→today we celebrated the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

→we just heard the familiar words and give thanks and praise for them:

Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them and said, "Take it; this is my body"then he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to them and they all drank from it....he said to them... "this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."

→that my friends is what so many people today simply "just don't get."

→in essence what we celebrate TODAY is the life we have been given...our life in Christ...our life that is overflowing with mystery and filled with footprints of the divine

--the feast we celebrate today....Corpus Christi...the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ was established in the 13th century...but it celebrates something far more ancient and represents something far more miraculous

→it is about --the institution of the Eucharist...the mystery of Christ's real presence...the sacrifice of the Mass

→and we can certainly...and most certainly do....appreciate the history....the ancient hymns...the processions and benedictions

→we can study the theology and the doctrine....we can sit attentively at mass and listen to the most learned homily explaining the origin of this feast and what it represents

---we can do all of that....

→but unless we discover and realize...that every day is a truly a gift....because of the Eucharist...the strength and courage...the life and enthusiasm...the meaning and purpose....we gain from each week receiving the Body and Blood of Christ....then our faith and our belief will [simply] remain superficial and shallow....

→i.o.w.....we won't get it

PAUSE

→one of the mounting challenges we are facing these days as a church...is the growing lack of commitment on the part of so many to their faith and to the church on a regular basis

--it troubles me that more and more people don't find faith and Church as being essential to their lives and to their existence

→and the excuses they give abound...I'm too busy...it's boring...I don't get anything out of it...it's not convenient....I can pray to God on my own....and of course my favorite...I am a spiritual person but not religious....

→however in reality...what all those excuses and the many more not-mentioned really mean....is that they don't fully understand the true meaning of the Eucharist---of what it means to receive the Body and Blood of Christ....

→and how receiving the Body and Blood of Christ gives us life....it gives us purpose...it gives us meaning...

--and that is what so many people today...simply just don't get...

→and it's not that they are not searching for meaning and purpose in life....they are just as you and I are....but what is different is that they are looking in all the wrong places.

→sadly...there are many who are look to find meaning and purpose in what they own...in their gadgets and gizmos...their activities and pursuits...

→I believe those of a younger generation are attempting to find meaning, and purpose, and ultimate happiness and contentment...through their cell phones rather than people...through their enormous amount of activities rather than their families and by their constant quest for entertainment and instant gratification rather than sitting quietly in the presence of God....

→sadly with all of the problems and setbacks...the frustrations and disappointments ...many fail to realize that all of us have been truly blessed

--we have truly blessed by God's presence in our lives

--we know that God loves us and is with us

--we know that God takes care of us and watches over us

→and the difference between us and them....those who get it and those who don't is that fulfillment we have...comes to us from being here each week to celebrate and pray...worship and receive.....the Body and Blood of Christ

→that is what **getting it** means

→that is what getting it is all about.

PAUSE

→we are blessed.....with the opportunity to come here each week and celebrate...to share in the Body and Blood of Christ ---- the mass

→and how truly lucky we are....because in many parts of the world today there are people who are starving for the Eucharist....people who are grateful when the opportunity

arises to receive the Body and Blood of Christ...and even more who continue to miss the opportunity that is right before their eyes....

→so be grateful and give thanks for what we have each week...

→the opportunity to receive the Body and Blood of Christ...to bring Christ into our minds, our hearts...our souls...the very core of who we are as a person

→be grateful and give thanks for being able to participate each week in the miracle of life with joyful thanks

→and be grateful and give thanks that the Spirit is alive in our hearts and souls

→I believe that God is truly pleased by the spirit of our worship each and every week

→it truly is a blessing for us all....to gather here and set the table, to break and bless the bread and wine and to share our Lord and ourselves with one another.

---to realize that our Lord is with us

---[and] to realize that the Eucharist really is an important part of our lives

→may we never forget how truly blessed we are!