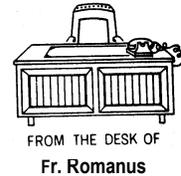


The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

June 3, 2018



Dear Parishioners,

Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ:

This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, which commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Prior to the reforms of Vatican II, this solemnity was known as *Corpus Christi*. In the official Calendar of the Church, it is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. However, in countries where it is not a day of obligation (as in The United States), it is usually celebrated on the Sunday following Trinity Sunday.

The origin of this celebration was attributed to an Augustinian Nun, Juliana of Liege, who had a vision of the Church in the form of a full moon with a dark spot that signified the absence of such a solemnity. She revealed her vision to various members of the Church's hierarchy and within a year, the solemnity was celebrated for the first time by the canons of St. Martin.

Pope Urban IV extended the celebration to the Universal Church in a Papal Bull entitled *Tansiturus* (1264), where he ordered the feast celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. At the Pope's request, St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelic Doctor) composed the hymn *Tantum Ergo*, dedicated to this celebration. Pope Clement V took up the issue again at the General Council of Vienna in 1311, which mandated its adoption. He also published a new decree on the solemnity that embodied that of Pope Urban IV, but neither included the procession later associated with the celebration.

As we know, the Church's liturgical life revolves around the Eucharist. Vatican II states that the Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of the Christian life (*Lumen Gentium*, 11). Likewise, the Catechism teaches that the Eucharist is the 'sum and summary' of our faith (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1327). Participating in the Eucharistic banquet fulfills Jesus' divine intention when he stated: "He who eats My Flesh and Drinks My Blood will abide in me, and I in him" (John 6:56). Through the eyes of faith, we come to appreciate the sanctifying gift of the body and blood of Christ in the appearance of bread and wine.

Recall that our parish site used to be known as "Corpus Christi parish" before the merger. This would have been the feast day for the parish site. As part of the merger, the feast day of our parish, Blessed Savior, is now the feast of Christ the King, November 26.

Congratulations to Blessed Savior graduates:

Fifty-one eight graders graduated from our Blessed Savior School on Thursday, May 31, at a ceremony on the East campus. Please, join me in congratulating the graduating class of 2018. We pray that God will bless and guide them as they move on to further their education in area High Schools and beyond. We are proud of their accomplishment and hope they will be good ambassadors of our parish and school.

Nomination for Trustee:

The term of office for our Trustee Treasurer, Julia Atkinson, expires June 30. She has expressed a willingness to continue as trustee. Hence, I am pleased to nominate her to serve another two-year term. Archdiocesan guidelines state that after the pastor makes the initial nomination, parishioners may nominate additional candidates in writing. Signatures of ten or more registered parishioners should accompany each nomination. If there are other nominations in addition to the pastor's nomination, an election will take place. The winner becomes trustee only if approved by the Archbishop.

Have a great week!

Fr. Romanus