

My Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, historically known by its Latin name, Corpus Christi, celebrates the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is traditionally celebrated on the Thursday following the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity and as of the past several years the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated on the Sunday following the Solemnity of Pentecost, this year, today, June 22nd. My friends, as we celebrate Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ, it is so important to remind ourselves that each and every time we attend Mass something wonderful occurs. Bread and wine become The Body and Blood of Christ.

The proper name for the bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ is transubstantiation. Bread and wine are changed yet their properties of remain the same. As we celebrate The Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ and, in fact, each and every time we come forward to receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, it is important for us to show reverence for the Sacrament we are receiving. As we approach the altar to receive Communion, we are asked to bow our heads gently before the Eucharist and then step forward to receive the Eucharist with reverence, either receiving Communion, the Body of Christ, in our hands or on our tongues. After receiving Communion, step to the side and consume the Eucharist before either receiving the Blood of Christ from the cup or returning to our places in the Church. Receiving from the Cup, we are to take the cup in our hands, receive from the cup and return the cup to the Minister of the Eucharist. Then, we are to spend time in giving thanks for such a precious gift, The Body and Blood of Christ, The Eucharist.

Sometimes, the properties of bread and wine change in some way along with the substance. These are known as Eucharistic miracles. Shortly after I arrived here in Castro Valley, as part of The Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese, there was a display of Eucharistic Miracles catalogued by Blessed Carlo Acutis. The display was presented at various churches throughout the Diocese. For each miracle, he created a web page that can be downloaded and printed. Blessed Carlos Acutis, a computer coding teenager died of cancer in 2006. He was 15 years old when he died. He is known for his great devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. With miracles confirmed by Pope Francis having taken place through the intercession of Blessed Carlo Acutis, Blessed Carlo Acutis is to be acclaimed officially as a Saint in the Church on September 7th of this year. He will be the first millennial saint. His canonization, having been scheduled earlier, was delayed due to the death of Pope Francis. Needless to say, there is great anticipation for his canonization.

Celebrating the Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ this Sunday and preparing ourselves worthily to receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, may our reception of and our devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist increase. May A Eucharistic Revival take place in our personal lives and throughout the world. Celebrate Corus Christi, The Body and Blood of Christ.

-Fr. Raphael