

Corpus Christi, C

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), which the Church celebrates today, reminds us all of God's wonderful gift to us through Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. While the primary focus of this solemnity is on the spiritual nourishment that Christ gives us, its secondary focus is on the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

The Body and Blood of Christ, the Eucharist, is Christ's most excellent gift ever given to us. It also shows God's love and care for our temporal and spiritual welfare. Therefore, what we celebrate today is the sacramental presence of Christ in his Church.

Today, virtually all the readings touch on one issue—giving or offering something. The first reading briefly tells us that **“Abram offered Melchizedek a tenth of everything.”** He did not give it to receive something in return. Instead, he did it out of his own free will. Of course, Melchizedek blessed him and offered thanks to God on his behalf with bread and wine. These were offerings of oneself in the form of material items.

Today, as ever before, Christ offers himself sacramentally to us. This is simply a way of expressing his unconditional love for us. He commands us: **“Do this in remembrance of me!”** So, the Church teaches us: **“The command of Jesus to repeat his actions and words until he comes does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what he did. It is directed at**

the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ.”

So, when we relive the experience, we truly eat His Body and drink His Blood. Also, at another level, **“Do this in remembrance of me”** positions us to be ready to offer ourselves completely for the salvation of others as Christ did for our salvation. So, when we relive this experience, we are nourished spiritually for the purpose of offering ourselves to and for others.

In the gospel, Jesus says to his disciples, **“Give them some food yourselves.”** Today, Christ is also asking us to offer something. For those who have been fed with the Body and Blood of Christ, we are not being asked to give what we do not have. Although we live in a **“highly religious world,”** there are many who are yet to be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ.

So, when we draw them closer to Christ, we bring them to the banquet table of Christ, who feeds and nourishes them with His body and blood. Therefore, we must be hospitable enough to help the weak, the spiritually hungry, and the thirsty participate in the great feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Finally, Christ offers us His real body and blood, real food and drink, which is the mystery and core of our faith. In the Holy Eucharist, Christ draws us closer to himself. Christ is present with us in the Holy Eucharist as the head of the Church. So, today’s celebration allows us to thank and

adore Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament. So, let us adore Christ, saying: **“O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament divine, all praises and all thanksgiving be unto you.” Amen.**