

## CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

*Deut 8: 2-3, 14b-16a1 Cor 10:16-17John 6: 51-58*

### HOMILY

The Feast of Corpus Christi reminds us that we possess an immense treasure.

- When a Catholic priest takes a little piece of unleavened bread and repeats the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper, *"This is my body"*, and
- when he takes a small amount of wine in a chalice and says, *"This is my blood"*, the bread is no longer bread and the wine is no longer wine.

Which means that at every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we participate in a marvellous miracle.

- This is the miracle called **‘Transubstantiation.’**

Transubstantiation is all about the **unique presence** of Christ under the Eucharistic species.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist

- the body and blood,
- together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ
- and the whole Christ is **truly, really** and **substantially** contained.

This presence **is called real**

In other words it is presence **in the fullest sense.**

That is to say, it is a substantial presence by which

- Christ,
  - God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present"
- (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1374).

Transubstantiation means "**change of substance**", or "**change of reality.**"

When the priest repeats the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper,

- the bread is no longer bread, and
  - the wine is no longer wine.
- ❖ Instead, the entire substance of the bread and the entire substance of the wine have been changed into the substance of the Body and Blood of Christ.

It is the hard teaching Jesus is driving into the minds of his listeners today.

Even when his listeners begin to quarrel, He insists on describing the eating and drinking of His flesh and blood in crude terms signifying a ‘gnawing’ or ‘chewing’ Of course, Transubstantiation cannot be proved through scientific experimentation.

- If we were to respectfully examine a consecrated host using a microscope, the physical attributes of bread would be obvious.
- If we were to do the same with the precious blood, the physical attributes would be that of wine.

Transubstantiation belongs to the reality of faith

Faith does not contradict reason.

Transubstantiation occurs only by the power of God, and in a way that we cannot empirically detect.

We know that transubstantiation takes place through the certainty of faith. There is no doubt that Jesus was not speaking symbolically. *"I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world"* (John 6: 51).

Our belief in the Real Presence must permeate all of our actions when we are in church.

- Sacred silence,
- reverent genuflections and
- proper attire for worship are all manifestations of deep reverence and faith.

That's why the church encourages us

- a. to keep in mind the grave importance to receive Holy Communion in the state of grace.
- b. to prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment.