

Corpus Christi

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Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. And as we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi we are focusing on the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. This is the core teaching of the Catholic Faith. If you don't believe in the Real Eucharist, in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, then you are not a Catholic. You might come to church every week. You might go do what you will but you are not a Catholic unless you believe in the Real Presence. Absolutely, positively, 100% this is what it means to be Catholic. That the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Almighty God. That is what we believe, that is what we have always believed. And Jesus says, "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood you will have no life within you." Christ is not a liar. So as we focus on the important reality, the core belief of our faith, we need to respond to that in four ways. One of course is that we have got to believe in it. Two we have got to believe...first we have got to believe, second we got to adore Him, third we have got to receive Him, and fourth we have got to be transformed into him. So let us deal with each of those things.

First we have got to believe. I think the greatest problem in the Church today is the lack of belief. It has been studied, and you know statistically it is a very small percentage believe in the Real Presence. They believe it is a symbol. And I think that problem is because a lot of priests and religious don't believe it anymore. They go through the motions of it but when it comes to their life, believing in it. Once I was at a Day of Recollection and it was for the Diocese. There was a nun who was giving the Day of Recollection. Now I was quite irritated because I knew she was a liberal and I knew I would have to put up with garbage as she started to speak. Now I know they all think the exact opposite of me. They won't even come into my presence because they think I am an ultra conservative and they think I am totally wrong. So we both have our own views. I was talking to the Bishop before, "She is going to say something heretical." "Larry, don't say that." "Okay." So this reading we have today in the Gospel was read. She had it read at the Day of Recollection. It was priest and religious there. Then Sister got up and she said, "We all know that there was no miraculous miracle that happened in this reading. The miracle of course was the people shared." I got mad! I looked over at the Bishop, he got mad. He looked over and he was very red. Told you.

The reality is people don't buy it. If the Eucharist is not real I am leaving the Church today. Thank you all very much. I am leaving and going to Tahiti and doing what the heck I want to do. Let me give you a hint – this is God in this tabernacle. Let me give you a hint – at this Mass, God will give you His life. Not a symbol. Not something to remind us of Jesus. It is God, right. So to believe that means when you come up today for communion, and myself or one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, say to you this is My Body, and you will respond "amen." And it is much more than "I do believe," it means I would stake my life that that is God. Would you really stake your life? If some radical Muslims came in here, locked all of the doors and had machine guns, and said those of you who believe that that piece of bread becomes God, you stay and die. Those of you who don't believe it you can leave. How many of you would stay and how many would leave? The first thing you and I have got to do is believe it. And if this bread and wine does not become Christ, then Jesus Christ is a liar. He said this is My Body. Isn't it amazing Fundamentalists believe in everything except for that. Well let me give you a hint people, we

have believe that since the beginning of the Church. Nobody doubted the Real Presence of the Eucharist, not even Martin Luther. Not even none of the Reformers doubted in the Real Presence. Not one. Now you get these nuts today who don't believe. It is a symbol. Well you are wrong and if we are wrong on this we are wrong on everything in the salvation of the Church. So those of you who say well you don't have to believe that to be a Catholic, you are wrong. You must believe that and you must be willing to die for that reality. So do you believe with your life that the bread and wine becomes God, that you and I will receive God today? Core belief of what we believe. The question is do you believe it?

The second thing is if you believe it then your life must be put into practice this belief. When I do a Parish Mission and I go around and I say how many of you people believe that here in that tabernacle is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of God? And everybody of course, because they think I am a nut, say yes we believe Father. I say, "Oh good." Then how many of you go to daily Mass or at least stop in to pay a visit or do a Holy Hour once a week in front of the Blessed Sacrament? Let me see your hands?" About 10% raise their hands. And I say, "The rest of you are liars." And then they look at me and say why did this priest come here? We hate this priest. Why, because I challenge them. Oh, don't challenge me Father. Just let me be like, just let me come to church and tell me Jesus loves me and everything will be okay. I will not. I am here to make you saints by definition, to receive the grace that Christ has given you and grow into it. So if you and I believe in the Real Presence then we should go to daily Mass if at all possible because it is give us this day our daily bread. If we believe in the Real Presence then we should be doing a Holy Hour every week because "can you not spend on e hour with Me?" If it is the Real Presence and you believe it every time you pass a church you stop and make a visit so when the time comes and they wheel you in, in your casket, Christ won't say who is it. So you put this belief into practice by adoring Christ, by spending time with Christ. By saying I not only believe, but I put this belief into practice by coming and being with Him just like you want to spend time with your husband, your wife, your mother, your father, your sister, your brother, your best friend, your girlfriend, your boyfriend. You fall in love by spending time. You want to fall more in love with Jesus you spend time with Him in His Eucharistic Presence.

The third thing we need to receive Him in the Eucharist. We receive Him worthily or we don't receive Him at all. That means we stay out of mortal sin. That is why I have confessions before Mass so if someone has a mortal sin they can go to communion. To go to communion not in the state of grace you bring judgment upon yourself as we read in 1Corinthians. It says, "some of you receive unworthily that is why some of you are sick and some of you are dying." So we are not ever to go to communion if we are not in a state of grace unless we truly repent and second we need to always go to communion because He promises you and me, He said, "If you eat My flesh and drink My blood you will live forever." So a promise from God is we will live forever. And as I have said a thousand times in John, chapter 6, verse 66, 666, the sign of the anti-Christ, "the people after He spoke on the Eucharist some of His disciples no longer remained in His presence and they left Him over the teaching of the Real Presence," John 666. Christ made it very clear that He is present. And then He gave us a promise if we receive Him we will live forever, that we will have life within us. So when we receive Him today we have got to receive Him with great humility knowing that the most important thing you and I will ever do in our whole lives is go to communion. This communion will keep you alive forever.

The last thing that must happen is that we get transformed into Jesus. That not only do we receive Him we become what receive. We are what we eat gentlemen and ladies. That means when we receive God

we become God by grace. It is called the divinization of man. The divinization of man is the more you and I receive God in our hearts the more you and I die to ourselves and Christ lives inside of us so that we become Christ to the world. So we never, ever, ever leave Jesus here. We are not these people who come to church, receive communion or do adoration and then we say okay Jesus I'll leave You here and go do what we want. We always take Jesus with us wherever we go. When people are looking at you and me and what they are thinking and saying is, "Sir or madam I would like to see Jesus." That is the purpose, that we bring Christ to the world who does not know Christ.

So today as we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi there are four things we need to focus on – do we believe; do we adore by putting our belief into practice; do we receive Him worthily; and do we allow ourselves to be transformed into Him so the world who doesn't know Him may be able to see Him in our lives. You got it? Get it? Going to live it? May each of us know His love today and forever, amen.