

June 18, 2017 – Feast of Corpus Christi – Cycle A

Good Morning! And how are you? How blessed we are on this the Feast of Corpus Christi the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ!

You know I was on vacation last week, or I wasn't on a vacation, a friend of mine got ordained a bishop, and we had a fine time. It was the first time I had experienced the ordination, someone being ordained to a bishop.

But then I came home again on Tuesday and then Friday I went to Atlanta and I spoke at the Eucharistic Congress there. Unbelievable event, Eucharistic Congress, they had 30,000 people there this weekend. The procession took over an hour of all the parishes, and different things, and so and it was broken up into various groups. But I spoke to 15,000 people. And I was the last speaker but before me there was a Brandon Vogt who does a lot online. And he works at Word on Fire and that. He got up and he talks about how why people leave the church and why people come back to the church and how to bring people in. He gave a great story about of this one guy who was a very good Catholic, went away to college, left the church, because he joined, you know, a bible study and got into a non-denominational type thing. Then came home and started telling everybody they are all going to hell because they're Catholic and you have to leave the Catholic Church. And his mother, you know the first thing he says, you pray, you just pray for him. So his mother prayed for him, you know, stuck those Lighthouse CD's and that, in his car and different things, and all this stuff. So she left one little pamphlet though there he happened to pick up and usually he would throw everything away but it was on the real presence of Jesus Christ. Now, this kid had went to Catholic grade school and Catholic high school and he never heard the Catholic's belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ. And so when he sat there and he read this and thought, huh, come on, it can't happen, really, come on. And then he studied it and the more he studied it the more he found out it is real. And then he like this massive Catholic now because of the real presence of Jesus.

That we need to know, you know, I'm guessing here at the parish everybody believes that the bread and the wine become the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Is that correct? If there's anybody that doubts that wonders I don't know, I don't think so. You know, if it doesn't then Jesus

Christ is a liar, correct? Jesus says “this is My body, this is My blood, My flesh is real food, My blood is you’ll drink. If you eat My flesh and drink My blood you will live forever. If you do not eat My flesh and do not drink My blood you will have no life within you.” The words of God Almighty, Jesus Christ. So it’s either true or it’s untrue. He is God or he is a liar. Period! And if Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist, 100 percent in the Eucharist, and He feeds us every week then we should come, here even if we had to crawl on our knees to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Because there is nothing more important than Christ in the Eucharist. There’s just isn’t. And so when we had in Atlanta 30,000 people from all around Atlanta just to come to profess one thing: Jesus Christ is alive and He feeds us in the Eucharist.

Again the early church never doubted it. It was never doubted by the Holy Church. The Holy Church, you know the first break off from us was who? The Orthodox. Do they believe in the really presence? Yes. So the first break off wasn’t until 1000 AD. Right? About 1100 AD. So for a thousand years nobody doubted the real presence of Jesus Christ. Nobody. And so even to this day the Orthodox still believe it; we still believe it. Did Martin Luther the first Protestant believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ? Yes. The reason that people stopped believing is because they all knew that it took a priest to make the bread and wine and the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus. When they no longer had validly ordained priests then they said that really wasn’t God anyway. It was just a symbol and they stopped believing. That’s the truth. So but, if we believe it, then what do we do to show that belief?

You know do we come and do we prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist? Do we sit there and do holy hour at our parish? Again, to think, you know how blessed we are? We’re the only parish in the 13th counties in the Erie Diocese that has Perpetual Adoration. The only parish and yet, yeah! Good! And yet I got to pull teeth to get people to do it sometimes. Most of you been very good, some of you have been very selfish because you haven’t given an hour yet to Jesus. And if you believe that is Jesus Christ there would be not even a second thought about giving Him an hour a week. Not even a second thought, of course, I’ll be with God for an hour, of course. But Father I’m very busy. That’s God. Almighty God waits for us in the tabernacle. Almighty God waits for us in the Adoration Chapel and He says come to me. Come to me! And we go, no, I’m too busy, I got work, I got this, I got to make money, I got to watch the football game, I got watch the basketball game, I

got to this, I got that. And when we always come up with the excuses why we're too important to give extra time to God. People of God, the only thing that matters is Jesus. And when we sit there and truly believe that, we'll start living that. We'll give Him what He asks of us. Can you not wait with Me for one hour? That's all He asks and everybody here can do it and you know you can if you choose to. So choose to and live forever. May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.