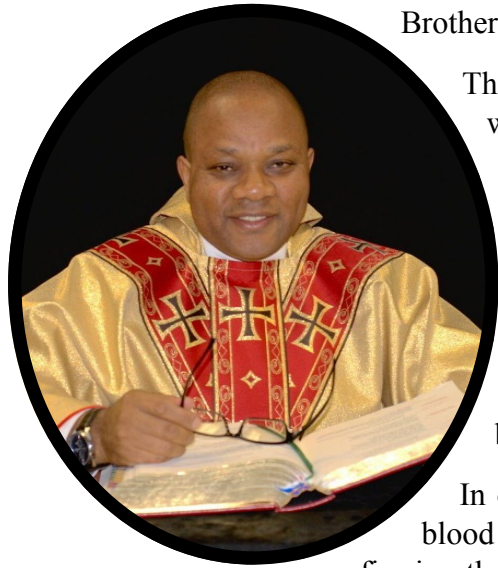


## FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of **Corpus Christi**, widely held as the **Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**. Our liturgical year has *two* feast days to celebrate *The Real Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist*: Holy Thursday, and today's Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ. The readings this year emphasize the theme of Covenant blood; we recall that the ancient peoples sealed covenants with the blood of ritually sacrificed animals, but Jesus sealed this new and everlasting covenant with his own blood on Calvary, thereby putting an end to animal sacrifice.

In our first reading from Exodus, we see Moses sprinkling the blood of sacrificed animals upon the altar and on the people, affirming the covenant God made with His People. In the second reading St. Paul mentions 'high priest'....In ancient times, the most important role of the high priest of the Israelites was to enter the Most Holy Place behind the veil in the Temple and stand before God on behalf of the people and himself. After our Lord Jesus died on Calvary, He became an eternal redemption, securing direct access to God any time of day.

In today's Gospel St. Mark recounts the Institution of the Eucharist, the fifth Luminous Mystery. At every Eucharistic sacrifice, at every Mass, a validly ordained Catholic priest puts aside his own idiosyncratic and cultural preferences and puts on the person of Christ, uttering "this is my body... this is my blood." Thus, "the ordained priest in the Mass links the Eucharistic consecration to the living sacrifice of the Cross and to the Last Supper," (cf. EE., no 29; CCC, p. 221).

I would guide all Catholics to receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord with total solemnity and reverence at every Mass, worshipping God with your whole being. St. John Chrysostom says: "What is the Bread actually? The Body of Christ. What do communicants become? The Body of Christ. Just as the bread comes from many grains, which remain themselves and are not distinguished from one another because they are united, so we are united with Christ." Where numerous grains of wheat are pounded together to create the host, and grapes crushed together into wine, we understand that Our Lord chose these elements to enable the Holy Spirit to transform us into Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the time of St. Thomas Aquinas, Corpus Christi has been celebrated with a procession to honor the Blessed Sacrament to be followed by a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Thomas, commissioned by Pope Urban IV, honored the Holy Eucharist with hymns such as "Panis Angelicus," O Salutaris Hostia," and "Tantum Ergo." It is our legacy and honor to venerate the Most Blessed Sacrament every Friday here at St. Joseph the Worker beginning with the Holy Mass at 9.am through 4.00pm. Join us if and when you are able.

Blessed Feast Day!