

**Sunday, May 29, 2005**  
**Feast of Corpus Christi**  
**Fr. Larry Richards**

Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi – The Body and blood of God. And today, we have a baptism of course, little Regina. Are you excited? And it's kind of the reality – what baptism does is it prepares her to become one in union with God. Now, what happens on this feast is we celebrate the greatest of all gifts to us – the Eucharist! And at the First Eucharist – the Last Supper, Jesus Christ, before He began the Last Supper – said “I have greatly desired to eat this Passover Feast with you before I suffer.” Jesus says He greatly desires you. When you woke up this morning, did you greatly desire Him? Have you been desiring Him all week? Or is Communion and the Eucharist just something, you know, hey it's one of the rituals we go through, you know, I can receive Communion? Or do you desire Him? Do you long for Him? Do you thirst for Him? Do you hunger for Him? He hungers for you. This Mass will cost Him His life! Everything! And so Mass is an insult to Him if it doesn't cost us our lives! If we just come here to do our good deed for the week, I go to church, be excited God, drop down and worship me because I'm giving you an hour out of my life God. You better do as I want! We should yearn for Him! And this feast demands things from us. This feast demands three things in particular from us. The feast demands we adore Him, we receive and eat Him, and that we become transformed into Him! The first part is we come here to adore God. And again, if today wasn't the regular – if we didn't have a baptism today – we'd start off Mass as we always do – by turning towards Jesus in the Eucharist and worshipping Him and adoring Him. And so, we do that pretty good as a community. But how do we do that individually? How do you adore God? How do you give your time to God? And I always sit there and say it becomes very real by what you do with your time! Talk is cheap! I do a lot of talking, don't I? Cheap! Anybody can do that! We must live our adoration! And so, how we live our adoration is by giving God time. Again, if we really believe that Jesus Christ is here in the Eucharist, there should be nothing more important than Him! Nothing!!! Gladly we give an hour of our time in the Eucharistic Chapel. Gladly!! Let me give you a clue here! If you don't give God an hour a week, you are not adoring Him in the Chapel! You have a chance and you say everything else is more important than Him. I don't care if you are busy! Don't play the game! You know it in the depths of your hearts – you know it – that if you can't give God an hour of your time, you really are not adoring Him! Play games if you want – but you know it, because He demands more – He demands more. He gives you everything! You and I can give Him time. So how do we prove that we adore God in the Eucharist? How do we prove it, besides going to Mass on Sunday, because I have to go to Mass on Sunday, because if I don't go to Mass on Sunday, it's a mortal sin, and if I die in mortal sin I go to Hell, so I go to Mass on Sunday – that's still about you!!! How do you prove that you adore Him? That you go out of your way for Him? You answer that to Him! But I'm just telling you, don't play games with yourself! You have to give Him time – very simple! Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ – you have to give Him time – all the days of your life! To adore Him is not something that is an option. The second thing that must happen is that we receive Him and eat Him. But it is important on how we receive Him, huh? Because

again, if you listen to the Sequence today it is pretty strong. And again, a lot of times, when we do this stuff, people go “boy, that’s long, we’re going to say the whole thing? There is a shorter version you know, Father. Couldn’t we have done the shorter version?” And you don’t really get it, because we just say a bunch of words here! But if you get this one line here – on the second column about four paragraphs down – “bad and good, the feast are sharing.” So that means both good people and bad people receive the Eucharist. So, it depends what you do. “Endless death or endless life. Life to those and to those damnation, see how like participation is with unlike issues rife.” What this means is, those who receive Communion in a state of grace and with faith and yearning, receive eternal life. But we know that it is not just those who receive Communion, but people who are not in a state of grace, they also receive Communion because – it’s no big deal, I’m a Catholic, you know, I have a right!! And you walk up there, you receive Communion and you receive death – damnation! Both receive, but the way you receive – whether in a state of grace or not in a state of grace – says what you receive. Again, all the way from 1 Corinthians “those who receive unworthily bring condemnation and a curse and why so many of you are dying.” Because receiving Communion unworthily. So again, it is very important that we always examine ourselves and make sure that I am in a state of grace before I receive Communion, so as not to bring curse upon me, but to bring life upon me – everlasting life! Now again, we are all weak human beings! I don’t want you to go NUTS now and say “am I in a state of grace, am I in a state of grace?” You know when you lose grace – you know it. Like Theresa Avila used to say “no one goes into mortal sin without knowing it.” Serious matter, full knowledge, full consent of the will. Purposely miss Mass on Sunday, you can’t go to Communion again until you get it right. You have to get to confession, huh? You had sex outside of marriage – you can’t go to Communion again unless you get it right and go to confession, right? And getting drunk on purpose! You know, there are a lot of things that make us in mortal sin. Now, if you come to church and you say, “Lord, I yearn for you and I want you and I never, ever again in my life to that sin, by your grace” – could you go to Communion? Yes! Yes! If you have the intention that you are going to get to Confession as soon as possible. That you will be grabbing Father and saying “Father could I go to Confession?” Or coming on Saturday. But if your heart – see, this is the thing – If you and I cling to sin and say “this is the way I am, I don’t care, I’m going to do it” and you receive Communion, you bring death upon yourself. If you sit there and you are in sin and say “God, I never want to do this again, please forgive me, you are my salvation, I will never again by your grace do it again...” you can receive Communion, because grace is already operating in your heart, huh? And again, that’s why when the church teaches politicians and other people who are pro-choice and everything else, you can’t go to Communion why? Not because we are keeping people from God, but because we love them and we don’t want them to suffer damnation, a curse. We don’t want the Bread of Life to become the Bread of Death for them. So the second thing we have to think about is how we receive Him. The third thing we have to sit there and focus on is we need to become transformed into Him. We are what we eat, huh? And so the whole purpose – you do realize that I’ve talked about this 1,000 times – We don’t receive more of Jesus when we go to Communion a lot. Like I go to Communion everyday for the last 17 years – well, since I was 17 – so, twenty-some years. I don’t get more of Jesus every time I go to Communion, right? I already have Jesus in me. You already have Jesus in you. We are

already tabernacles. Always! He doesn't stay in you for ten minutes and say "ok, I'm out of here." He doesn't stay in you until you go to the bathroom and say "ok, now I'm really out of here." He stays in you always. You are the tabernacle of God! But what happens when we receive Communion often, we die more to make room for Him, huh? St. John the Baptist said "He must increase" and the way He increases is "I must decrease." So I go to Confession more and more to learn to die. See one of the goals in our life has to be that we die so much, that when people look at us they don't see us anymore, they see Jesus. Because the question that people ask us is "Sir or Ma'am, I would like to see Jesus. I don't want to see you. Oh ya, you're a great guy or girl, but you are not going to bring me salvation. Sir or Ma'am, I want to see Jesus." So that's why when we spend time with Him, we die more to ourselves, that He may grow more. And so the goal in your life and my life must be do decrease, so that Jesus may grow more in our lives! Is that one of your daily goals? Jesus, I want people to see you when they look at me – not me anymore! We have a lot of competition today! And so, I want to die more and more and be open because when you and I receive Him and we more and more open our lives to Him, we give Him more room. He is already there but He is kind of crunched in. We give Him more room to grow. So today, this Feast demands things of you and me. It demands things of Him – His life on this altar - He gives us His own body and blood. But it demands of us that we adore Him, that we receive Him worthily, and that we become transformed into Him. Ya got it? Get it? Good. Nine minutes and 33 seconds. Shut up! I'm the only one allowed to time my homilies around here!