

Dear Parish Family,

I have been invited by Cardinal Cupich to participate in the pilot offering of a new priest leadership program called Walking Together, which will take place at the University of St. Mary of the Lake from Sunday, June 22 to Friday, June 27. The program is designed to provide priests the opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily parish life and reflect deeply on how we are called to be leaders in today's Church. During my absence, please direct any inquiries to the parish staff. Please pray for me during this important time with the Cardinal and my brother priests and know that I keep all of you in my prayers as well.

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ. The first reading (Genesis 14:18-20) highlights the elements of bread and wine that Melchizedek brought out as he blessed Abram. The Lector workbook affirms that with this presentation; Melchizedek prepares us for the offering that the Lord makes at the Last Supper and at every Eucharist.

Do this in remembrance of me. These words, spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper, echo through every celebration of the Eucharist. But what does it mean to “remember” in the way Christ intended?

Today, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, we are reminded that the Eucharist is not just a ritual—it is a transformation. As Rev. Hank Hilton beautifully puts it, “*We become like the things we contemplate.*” When we contemplate Christ in the Eucharist, we are invited to become more like Him: generous, forgiving, and radically loving.

The Gospel reading (Luke 9:11b–17) recounts the miracle of the loaves and fish. Jesus doesn't just feed the crowd—He invites the disciples to participate: “You give them something to eat.” In the same way, the Eucharist is not just something we receive; it's something we become. We are called to be bread for the world, nourishment for the hungry, peace for the anxious, and hope for the weary.

St. Augustine once said, “*Behold what you are; become what you receive.*” In receiving the Body of Christ, we are united not only with Jesus but with one another. The Eucharist is the great equalizer—no one is more worthy than another. We all come as sinners, and we all leave as the Body of Christ, sent on mission to love and serve.

Corpus Christi is not just a memorial celebration but an experience of God's love, a sacrament (living sign) of how “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son to save the world.” Jesus' presence does make a difference in our lives when He becomes the center and focus of our every longing. He satisfies our hunger and thirst. Jesus offers us the gift of himself to lead, guide and protect us in our journey of faith.

So today, let us not only adore the Eucharist but allow it to change us. Let us carry Christ's presence beyond the walls of the church—into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. Because the real miracle of Corpus Christi is not just that Christ is present in the bread and wine, but that He chooses to be present in us.

What an awesome gift we have in Jesus. His farewell gift to the Church is that he will be with us always until the end of time.

Fr. Edmond