

## 06/07/15 ..... Corpus Christi B

-- I don't know about you, but I hate the site of blood, especially when it comes out of me. I have a condition where I've been advised not to give blood. Even tend to get light-headed when blood is drawn from my arm for normal tests.

-- Blood is often associated with death in our culture. In biblical times, though, it was primarily a sign of life. The ritual Moses performed with blood wasn't regarded as gross by those people. They saw this as God's pledge of his life to them.

-- Some of us, as children, may have engaged in a ritual to join a club or make a pact with a friend. You may have pricked your fingers and held them together where they'd bled. It was a sign that you were bound together, as blood brothers or sisters.

-- Jesus Christ did something much greater for us. The Book of Hebrews tells us that he gave his own life blood for our redemption. He offered himself to cleanse us of sin. He held nothing back for our sakes.

-- This wasn't a sacrifice to appease an angry God's wrath. He was pouring himself out as a faithful servant...one who was faithful till death.

-- That is what we celebrate when we come together for the Eucharist. When we come to Mass, we receive the very body and blood of Jesus Christ. We partake of the life of Jesus in an unbloody way. We celebrate the one who gave his life that we might have eternal life.

-- One spiritual writer described it well when he said that the Eucharist is a way God physically embraces us. When we receive Holy Communion, it's as if God is embracing each and every one of us and giving us a kiss.

-- Yes, words are powerful. People in love need to say *I love you* to each other, time and time again. But words are not enough. They need to kiss, to physically embrace, in order to express their love adequately.

-- So, too, God's word in the scriptures is powerful. We need to hear it regularly, and we hear it at every Mass. But the Bible alone is not enough to sustain our faith. We need a physical act...God's embrace, God's kiss.

- The Eucharist is that embrace, that kiss. We eat and drink in a physical action. God shares his body and blood with us as surely as a married couple shares their bodies with each other.
- In a moment, selected members of our parish will renew their commitment to be ministers of Holy Communion for our community. They will reaffirm their belief that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
- They will also promise to distribute it with reverence. Most of all, they will resolve to try to be examples of Christian living.
- As we approach to receive Holy Communion today, may we think about the awe-inspiring action we are undertaking. We are taking the body and blood of Christ into our bodies. We are sharing Christ's very life.
- Jesus embraces us today. May we embrace Jesus with our whole heart and soul as we hear his word and partake of his body and blood.