

# Pastor's letter

June 14, 2009

## *Corpus Domini* (*Body and Blood of Christ*)

Dear parishioner,

The solemnity of the Corpus Domini (Latin words for Body of the Lord) is more properly the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Pope Urban IV, following the miracle of Bolsena, founded this feast on September 8, 1264. While a priest was celebrating the mass, the consecrate host started to bleed.

This is the feast of the Eucharistic that we celebrate every day.

The institution of the Eucharistic happened during the Last Supper as demonstrated by Jesus. We relive this event during the Mass and it helps us remember the sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation.

*“Jesus said to them, I tell you in truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.”* (John 6: 53-56)

At the last Supper, Jesus distributed bread and wine to His disciples as His Body and His Blood, offered as sacrifice for the salvation of the humanity, entrusting His disciples to do the same in His memory.

We all know, the Eucharistic that the priest celebrates every day is the sacrificial offering, during which the priest offers the bread and wine to God. This in turn, by the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes truly the Body and Blood of Christ, the same Body and the same Blood offered by Jesus on the Cross.

The priest that celebrates the Mass, acting in “persona Christi”, invokes the power of the Holy Spirit; at which time, according to our Catholic Christian faith, the “Transubstantiation” happens; the change “over the substance” of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Sometimes I talk with some parishioners and also with some priests about the great or small flow of people who participate at Mass every Sunday. Their remark is always more or less the same one, “You know Father Luciano, it depends on the period of time. During the summer and on long weekends the parishioners take advantage and try to spend time with their

own family, maybe go out of town for a trip to the mountains. Because of this, they don't come to Mass!" Personally, I agree that is all right.

Sometimes I like to joke with parishioners, making them aware of the fact that I have noticed their absences, that once or oftentimes I have not seen them at Sunday's Mass.

Again, I know this to be all right, until to receive the weekly Eucharistic, becomes an internal desire and not an appearance.

It is correct to say that to spend time with the family is of extreme importance. Likewise, for the whole family to go together to Mass doesn't mean having to spend less time with the family, rather, to feel more united as a family, in virtue of the Eucharistic.

Relating to the two examples and consequences that I have described above for the people that sometimes don't come to the Mass, I will define the "Miracles of the Eucharistic."

The greatest flow to the Sunday Mass, depends on the "Miracle of the Eucharistic" that happens in every one of us.

Some theologians consider the Virgin Mary as the first "Human Tabernacle" of our Lord, Jesus Christ, being God's Mother. Others continue to define each human being as a "living Tabernacle."

I like this definition: "the human being as God's Tabernacle."

It is important to reflect on this point. We say that we go to receive the communion, but the communion is a thing that happens between two beings: God, who gives Himself to us and we, who accept and welcome Him in us.

I receive the communion and God lives in me, I am His house.

How very important it is to be conscious and aware of this knowledge.

I stated above that the "Miracle of the Eucharistic" happens in us when we receive the Eucharistic. The miracle of which I speak of is different from all others. It is not very evident nor does it occur immediately. We do, however, recognize the miracle. Why? Because the "Miracle of the Eucharistic" lives in us, upholds and considers our personality, our characteristics and our availability. It is kind and respectful, without hurry. With discretion, it brings us to understand the sense and the importance of life.

We can understand the "Miracle of the Eucharistic" in us, through our actions, our orientations, our style of life and our relationships with others; we feel for our neighbor as ourselves. We can understand the "Miracle of the Eucharistic" in us, in our efforts to reconcile with our enemies, and forgive those that make us suffer or offend us.

We see the consequence of this great "Miracle" in us, when we feel like "Eucharistic", when as Jesus, we offer ourselves to others with "Love".

Peace, Father Luciano