

## Reflection for the Feast of Corpus Christi

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This Feast day in the Roman Catholic Church is in honor of the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This Feast is celebrated on the Sunday or Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

The Feast of Corpus Christi originated in 1246 when Bishop Robert de Torote of Liege ordered that a Feast be celebrated in his diocese in honor of the Holy Eucharist. It was St. Juliana, Prioress of Mont Cornillon, who had prevailed on the Bishop of Liege to celebrate the Feast in his diocese. St. Juliana had visions since she was 16 that convinced her to work towards a celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Her efforts came to fruition in the year 1246. In 1264 Pope Urban IV instituted the Solemnity of Corpus Christi as a Universal Feast for the Church. Pope Urban was formerly the Archdeacon of Liege. The Feast of Corpus Christi was the first Papally sanctioned universal Feast in the history of the Latin Rite.

On this Feast there is an option of two prefaces that can be used before the Eucharistic Prayer at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The preface at Mass is the introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer it sets the tone for the Eucharistic Prayer based of the Feast or Season that we are celebrating. All Prefaces have a beginning, middle and an end. The beginning of the prefaces is a dialogue with the Celebrant of the Mass and the congregation and the same words are used in every preface. The end of the Preface is the congregation and the Celebrant of the mass joining together to sing the Sanctus or the Holy, Holy.

It is in the middle of the Preface where the focus of the Feast or Season will be found. This Sunday on Corpus Christi Sunday, the middle part of the second option of the preface states:

*For at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, he offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity.*

The mass, as pointed out by this part of our preface this Sunday, speaks volumes. Not only do we receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ that strengthens and nurtures us in our journey of faith, we as a people are united through the Eucharistic miracle to the past, present, and future. This miracle on the Altar that we are blessed to be able to receive connects us with Christ, and with the universal Church. Our simple act of receiving Christ, not only impacts us at the moment of our reception of our Lord but its affect stays with us for the rest of our lives.

This Sunday as we receive our Lord, and are nourished by this sacred mystery, may we be enlightened by our one faith and united by this one bond of charity. As we allow this miraculous gift to transform us, may we reflect on how we in our actions and deeds can be a part of transforming the world. Last week our bulletin had a letter from our Archbishop John C. Wester, encouraging us to sign a petition at [NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](http://NoTaxpayerAbortion.com) that informs Congress that we support the Hyde Amendment and do not want it to be overturned. Please take some time today and this week to prayer and reflect on how each one of us strengthened by the Eucharist can make a difference in the world and then consider going to [NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](http://NoTaxpayerAbortion.com) and sign the petition to protect the sanctity of human life.

In closing this Feast of Corpus Christi invites us to have a deep relationship with Christ through the Eucharist. We as a faith filled people are blessed to have a faith that is Eucharistic centric. As we go forth from the celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, may we keep the Eucharist central to our lives. May we embrace the opportunity for frequent reception of the Eucharist and may we pray before the Eucharist, the real presence of Jesus Christ. Once strengthened by our Lord may we go forth and be a light onto the nations.