

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Church celebrates the great Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi. It is amazing to think that this solemnity started with a **doubt** and turned into a great **manifestation of faith** in the **Real Presence**. In 1263, a German priest named Peter of Prague was on a pilgrimage to Rome to pray on the tombs of saints to ask for help with his doubts about the Eucharist. He had been having doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. **Was the bread and wine really transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus?**

On the way back home, after nothing changed for him, he stopped in Bolsena, Italy, a town about 70 miles north of Rome. He said Mass at the Church of St. Christina. As he raised the host and consecrated it, blood started flowing out of it, onto his hands and the altar. **God was telling him, and us, that yes, He is truly present in the host.**

Peter was confused and tried to hide the blood. Then he excused himself from finishing the Mass and went to the nearby city of Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV was staying. He explained everything to the pope, who ordered the host and blood-stained altar cloth brought to the cathedral at Orvieto, **where they are still enshrined today.**

It is said that this miracle prompted Pope Urban to have St. Thomas Aquinas write prayers for a Mass celebrating the Most Holy Body of the Lord, the Feast of Corpus Christi. One year after the miracle, in August of 1264, Pope Urban IV introduced the saint's composition, and by means of a papal bull, instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi.

May the origins of this Solemnity inspire us not to leave the Lord when in doubt but to seek Him even more. May this Solemnity be an occasion to manifest in everyday life how precious is the Body and Blood of Christ to us. May our **actions** inside and outside of Church speak louder of the Real Presence, more than our words.

This coming Friday, June 7th, we will celebrate yet another special Solemnity, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. This Solemnity was inspired by the Lord to be spread by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque during the time in the Church's history when She was becoming "rigid." She needed to be reminded of the heart; what better reminder than His Sacred Heart. On December 27th, 1673, the feast of St. John the Apostle, Margaret Mary said that Jesus had permitted her to rest her head upon his heart, and then disclosed to her the wonders of his love, telling her that he desired to make them known to all mankind and to diffuse the treasures of his goodness, and that he had chosen her for this work. This Solemnity is also a day of prayer for the sanctification of all priests. Let us pray for our priests.

The very next day, the Church will celebrate the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion refers to the interior life of Mary, her joys and sorrows, her virtues, hidden perfections, and, above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus Christ, and her motherly and compassionate love for all mankind.

Finally, thank you to all who participated in different ways in the celebration of the 25th Ordination Anniversary for Fr. Siffredus last Sunday. Thank you all for all the kindness and gratitude you showed to him and his ministry.

Peace,