



CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami –Office of Lay Ministry

May 29, 2016 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Gospel reading Luke 9:11B-17 *[To be read aloud]*

Brief commentary:

Today's feast of Corpus Christi invites Christians everywhere to celebrate the Blessed Sacrament and what it says about Jesus and about his Church.

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of welcome, inclusion and solidarity: The gospel reading of Jesus' 'multiplication of the loaves and fish', reminds us of how God provided for the wandering Israelites in the desert. The Eucharist is therefore central to God's care for the people, God's powerful presence and providence, as we journey through this world on our way to the ultimate Promised Land in the eternal presence of the Almighty. We see a Jesus concerned for the plight of the people.

By instituting the Eucharist "on the night he was betrayed" we can understand how the Eucharist is the perfect 'Symbolon' of Jesus life: "This is my body given for you...this is my blood poured out for you." As the *Catechism* states: "Jesus lived his life for others..." Likewise, we "by receiving the Body of Christ we become the Body of Christ" and are called to be 'eucharistic' like Jesus, to have "have the same attitude that is ours in Christ Jesus" who came "not to be served but to serve...and to lay down his life for many." We can 'become what we receive' when the Eucharist – the "bread of the poor" – reminds us of the hungry: those hungry for food, justice, liberty, love and compassion, meaning and purpose, hope. We can 'become what we receive' when, as the living Body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves in wholehearted loving service to God and to others. At every Mass we "taste and see the goodness of the Lord," giving thanks as we "remember Christ's death until he comes in his glory," as well as affirm our mission to offer the world what we have received in Jesus Christ with so much love.

Today's reading offers significant messages:

- The solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ invites us to reflect on the meaning and importance of the Eucharist for the life and mission of the Church, in our relationship to God, to one another and to the world.
- Holy Communion calls us to live in communion with God in Christ through the Spirit, and to live in communion with one another as the family/the household of God.
- The Eucharist also re-presents – continually makes present – the life of Jesus as our model for living. Just as Christ lived his life for others, for us, those who receive his true Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament are called to become his Body, his presence, in the world continuing his mission of healing, teaching, forgiveness and redemption.

For our shared or personal reflection:

- What does the Eucharist mean in my life? How is the Eucharist central to my relationship with God and my relationship to the community of the Church?
- What does the Eucharist remind me of and call me to?
- How can I truly pray and live the mass in such a way that it strengthens me to live as a disciple of Jesus and apostle of his mercy in and for the world?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1322-1419