



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ and Happy Feast of Corpus Christi! Over the past several months, there has been a good deal of talk within the Church about ***“Eucharistic Coherence”***. It’s a term that was coined by the Bishops of Latin America in their 2007 *Aparecida Document*. That document which the future Pope Francis helped to create has come to be seen as a road map that the entire Church can use in the challenging work of sharing the Good News in our modern times.

While that document coined the phrase “Eucharistic Coherence”, St. Paul espoused the same truth back in the first century and Church Fathers up and down history have done the same. So what does it mean?

“Eucharist Coherence” simply points to the nature of the Eucharist, itself. That the Eucharist which is the Source and Summit of our faith, the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Body and Blood of Christ...contains within it a terrific coherency or unity. It cannot be divided, for the Eucharist is Christ and Christ is perfectly One.

At issue is the lack of coherence and that is found not in the Eucharist but in us. How scattered, how divided, how incoherent we can be! While a problem for sure, it is a problem that the Eucharist can heal. How? By its Reality and Power and by our Humility and Obedience.

The Reality of the Eucharist is the fact that the Eucharist IS quite literally the Body and Blood of Christ. The Catholic Church professes the Eucharist to be just that and as such it has great power. Power to evoke our Adoration and Love, power to draw us out of ourselves, away from sin and into Him. St. Francis of Assisi said this often to his friars: *“Brothers, look at the humility of God, and pour your hearts before Him! Humble yourselves and you may be exalted by Him!”* There is indeed a power to the Eucharist to make us one, to make us more and more aligned to Christ in thought, word and deed. St. Augustine exhorted his people that thru the Eucharist we *“become what we receive”*. The Eucharist humbles and convicts us, leads us to a repentance that enables a growing coherence, the Coherence of Christ, Himself.

On this Feast of the Eucharist, we can pray for this gift. We pray it for ourselves and those we love. We pray it for our Bishops and Priests. We pray it for our Church.

I close with the ever direct and refreshing words of the Flannery O’Connor. When it came to the Eucharist, her theology was very simple. While at a dinner once, someone was questioning the reality of the Eucharist and she said, ***“If it’s a symbol, to hell with it.”*** She later wrote about the event: *“That was all the defense I was capable of at the time, but I realize now that apart from story, this is all I will ever be able to say about it (the Eucharist) that it is the center of existence for me; all the rest of life is expendable.”*

Lord grant us the grace to will the same! Help us to become ever more coherent, by the Gift of the Eucharist. Remove from us all – to Hell with all--that is not coherent. May we see all things--apart from you -- to be expendable.

Peace, Fr. Rogers



FATHER’S DAY CARDS

Father’s Day cards are available in the back of Church beginning the weekend of June 5-6. All fathers will be remembered throughout the month of June. Envelopes with their names will be placed and will remain on the altar throughout the month.

