



14 June 2009

The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Dear Parishioners,

Mother Teresa writes:

One day I was walking down the streets of London and saw a man sitting all alone, looking terribly lonely. I walked up to him and took his hand and shook it. As my hand is very warm, he exclaimed “Oh! After so long, this is the first time I’ve felt the warmth of a human hand.” And then his face brightened up. He was a different being. The warmth of a human hand was a small thing, but through it he felt that there was somebody who really wanted him, somebody who really cared. I never realized before that such a small action could bring so much joy.

The outreach and the warmth of her hand, that human touch, made a difference in his life. Such a story helps us realize the gift the Eucharist is, and what we encounter when we are present to this mystery.

Christ takes hold of us in a very ordinary, tangible manner. In “such a small action” we encounter someone who wants us, someone who cares. It is a gift for the taking. However, with this gift there is the challenge: that we become such presence by making a difference in the lives of others; by being present in a warm, understanding way. I do believe our world is ‘starving’ for such presence. When we take on the challenge, then “we become what we eat”, as St. Augustine put it, and Christ lives on within our flesh and blood existence.

On this Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord, may we realize the great gift and challenge that is ours. May we embody the mystery we hold in our hands and receive in faith. May we go make a difference.

Father Tim Clark
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