

Strona Proboszcza

The Pastor's Page

June 10th, 2007

Solemnity of Corpus Christi

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Month of the Sacred Heart

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Parishioners & Friends of Sweetest Heart of Mary,

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi is the last big celebration of the liturgical year before we enter fully into the simplicity of Ordinary Time. This is a special occasion to focus our attention, even more than usual, on the wonderful gift of the Holy Eucharist. We celebrate this gift each Sunday. In fact we are permitted to receive the Holy Eucharist every single day of our lives if we so choose. The Eucharist is the greatest treasure of our faith, always available to us, always present in the tabernacles of catholic Churches throughout the entire world! We want never to take this treasure for granted, never to become so used to it that we celebrate or receive it routinely without awareness of what we are doing and who is present.

Are we conscious of the fact when we come up to receive Holy Communion that the small piece of bread placed in our hands or on our tongue is the living Christ? Our Savior Jesus Christ veiled or disguised as bread. This would seem to be an obvious truth, one that we all learned in our First Communion Catechism, and yet there are so many confused Catholics out there. The Eucharist is not a symbol of Christ. It is not a quaint reminder of Him.

Yes, it goes against common sense that the Lord of all creation could be present in something so insignificant as a little piece of bread, but He is there! Make no mistake about it. He is there because He wants to be there! It is part of God's Master Plan of the Salvation of Humanity – to be able to come to people of every generation and era of history, to be present to them and help them with the grace only God can give. What a fantastic treasure the Blessed Sacrament is!

According to long standing tradition in the Church, on the feast of Corpus Christi our faith in Christ's wonderful presence in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar culminates in the Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. This act of devotion takes our faith to the streets! It is *almost* a moment of *showing-off* our greatest treasure to all those who may not be aware of our faith in the Divine Presence by demonstrating publicly our devotion to Christ. If people should stop and stare at our doings in procession, all the better. The Eucharistic Procession has the potential to be a strong form of evangelization! It is also a way of reminding ourselves that the Eucharistic presence of Christ is not simply confined to the church. No, Christ's presence enters into every corner of our lives both inside and outside the parish church.

Boże Ciało in Poland

In the Old Country of our ancestors the Eucharistic procession on Corpus Christ was one of the biggest events of the year from both a religious and social perspective. The Solemnity is always celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, which is a legal holiday! Why Thursday? This day was chosen to commemorate the day the Last Supper was held during which the Holy Eucharist was instituted.

After Mass the procession takes place in cities along the streets passing houses and shops and through the town square. The priest carries the monstrance with the Eucharist under a canopy as young children scatter flowers along the way. In villages and rural areas the procession is from house to house. As the procession moves along the Eucharistic hymn sung by all present is *Twoja cześć chwała* which is translated Yours is the honor and glory our eternal Lord! May this never cease unto the end of time!

Four altars are set up along the path of the procession. They are decorated with an abundance of late spring flowers, candles and statues of favorite saints. As the procession of crosses, banners, statues, icons, altar boys with bells and children dressed in ethnic costumes or their Sunday best arrives at each altar the priest reposes the Sacrament there for prayers and Benediction.

The first altar commemorates the Eucharist as a Sacrifice or Offering. At the second altar it is recalled that the Eucharist is food for the soul. The Third altar commemorates the Eucharist as the foretaste of eternal life and the fourth altar celebrates the Eucharist as the sacrament of unity of the Church.

This solemn celebration of the loving presence of the Body and Blood of Christ always comes at that time of the year when nature itself is bursting into bloom and joins in the joy of all creation in realizing God's Divine presence with us always in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist!

“Poland in September Y’goin?”

In September a group from Sweetest Heart of Mary and anyone else who is interested will be visiting Poland for nine days. We will leave Detroit on Wednesday, September 19th and be staying in the cities of Warsaw, Częstochowa and Kraków, but will also be visiting the cities of Torun, Zakopane and Wadowice. Poland is **THE** perfect vacation place because anything a person could want is there, natural beauty, historic cities, palaces, cathedrals museums, mountains, sandy beaches, amazing forests and so much culture, tradition and history. If you are of Polish descent and remember your ancestors speaking lovingly of their homeland Poland and you have never been to this wonderful place, **NOW IS YOUR CHANCE** to get in touch with your roots! Two groups have visited Poland from our church in recent years. These visits were unforgettable. The highlight of both trips has been Masses that were celebrated for our group at Częstochowa before the icon of the Black Madonna. Most folks who went remarked they never dreamed Poland would be such a wonderful country and learned so much about authentic Polish culture. They returned home even prouder of being Polish. If you do not speak the Polish language, do not fear in the slightest. A translator will be with you all the time. You will learn so much on this trip and authentic Polish cuisine will surprise and delight you! Going on this trip will enrich your life in so many ways I cannot list them all, but I assume you it will be an experience you will never forget. More information can be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

Note: The deadline for booking this trip is June 18th!