



Corpus Christi June 1, 1986

Genesis 14: 18-20

I Cor. 11: 23

Luke 9: 11-17

“We worship you living among us in the sacrament of the bread... May we offer undivided love in our service to each other” ---from our prayer of the day.

As you sang so beautifully, we are priestly people for we can offer ourselves, for we are bread of the Word of God.

Last Sunday on the Feast of the Trinity, we reflected on the life of our God in the analogy of the rose. The rose that unfolds from a seed, that blossoms, withers and dies leaving again, a seed. The seed of that rose that enfolds the entire potential of all of the qualities of the rose; the seed of the rose that enfolds the life force that causes the rose to unfold. The rose that we accept at each moment of its existence and development whether it is just a seed or bud or blossom or withering petals or seed again.

On the Feast of the Body of Christ, with the analogy of the rose in mind, we might reflect on the symbol and sacrament of the bread. For God has revealed is life in this sacrament.

Each of us has been created in the image and likeness of our God. We have the total potential of the creative Word of God. From before the beginning, he saw us in Christ – all that we are as human. “From before the foundation of the world he loved us.” All that we are; divine, Spirit, One. This is our eucharistic life –bread of the word – to be gathered – unfolded, enfolded.

Today we celebrate what Thomas Aquinas heralded in his great hymn. So great a sacrament, Word made flesh, true bread of heaven. Ancient forms are now departed for new acts of grace are here.

Our prayer today, “We worship you living among us...sacrament of the bread...May we offer...undivided love in the loving service to one another.” The acceptance of each other at each moment of development.

Our God, not only unfolding himself in each one of us as bread, but also giving us of his inner life to sustain and enfold us into the Oneness of His Spirit.

Remember the thrilling and interesting insight of Jacob Brownowski in his book “Ascent of Man.” How God raised the level of consciousness of primitive nomadic peoples to bread and wheat as symbol of the nurturing life of God. The symbolism of bread that comes down to us through the ancestors of Jesus. Deep in the misty past of a Melchizedek who heralded bread and a priestly people. The symbolism Jesus raises to that of sacrament, his life, the very life of God. “On the same night he was betrayed, he took bread and thanked ‘ God...broke it and said, “This is my body”...The life we already possess, to unfold and to be enfolded.

Father LeVerdiere in our conference pointed out the fact that in the multiplication of the bread scenes from the 'Gospels, Jesus did not offer himself, but rather "offer what you have." Emphasize the bread as the sharing of who we are already. The Gospel scene of Mary and Elizabeth of our feast of the Visitation. Mary hurried to share herself with Elizabeth in her eucharistic action. She and Elizabeth unfolded who they were and both became more whole in the gathering of the fragments.

The mystery of our eucharistic life. Many though One. Fragments of the bread of the Word that we are, to be gathered into One. Building the circle of the Kingdom, in the Queendom of Love.

Work that we do, work that serves our survival as human's is real work that is learning to do that work together. The *together* aspect that determines whether or not the work is worth while surviving.

Building the Body of Christ, celebrating corpus Christi is learning to unfold the community like a rose, through the many services to each other so that the inner life of each one will grow and be evident in the enfolding of the togetherness of the whole community.

The center that is everywhere in the Body of Christ.

"Lord, we worship you living among us in the sacrament of the bread and wine. May we offer our pledge of undivided love in our loving service to one and other."