

Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ

God, one day in heaven, lined up all of the married couples in the world and in heaven that he could find. He said to the men, "My children, I have a task for you all. Those of you who feel that you are the head of the household, step to the left. Those of you who think your wife is the head of the household, step to the right." He gestures to those gathered before him, and to his astonishment, all but one man stepped to the right. God exclaimed "Every man here believes that his wife is the head of the household? This is a surprise!" He turned to the one man who had stepped to the left, and said to him, "My child, how is it that you were the only one to end up in this line?"

The man looked at God and said, "I have no idea! My wife told me to stand here!"

Dear Friends,

We celebrate the Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ, the source of our faith. This feast was created in the Thirteenth Century. Pope Urban IV made the degree to celebrate the feast of Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Eucharist is a physical embrace of Christ to you. There's a story told of a young Jewish boy named Mortakai who refused to go to school. When he was six years old, his mother took him to school, but he cried and protested all the way and, immediately after she left, ran back home. She brought him back to school and this scenario played itself out for several days. He refused to stay in school. His parents tried to reason with him, arguing that he, like all children, must now go to school. This was to no avail. His parents then tried the age-old trick of applying an appropriate combination of bribes and threats. This too had no effect.

Finally, in desperation they went to their Rabbi and explained the situation to him. For his part, the Rabbi simply said: "If the boy won't listen to words, bring him to me." They brought him into the Rabbi's study. The Rabbi said not a word. He simply picked up the boy and held him to his heart for a long time. Then, still without a word, he set him down. What words couldn't accomplish, a silent embrace did. Mortakai not only began willingly to go to school, but he also went on to become a great scholar and a Rabbi.

What that parable wonderfully expresses is how the Eucharist works. In it, God physically embraces us. Indeed, that is what all sacraments are, God's physical embrace. Words, as we know, have a relative power. In critical situations they often fail us. When this happens,

we still have another language, the language of ritual. The most ancient and primal ritual of all is the ritual of physical embrace. It can say and do what words cannot.

He touches every one of us through his body and blood. Let us feel God's touch in us and share the feeling of Jesus with others. Eucharistic revival should be able to bring the unity and communion spirit in us.

In the Old Testament, we feel God's embrace through food and water. He took care of their needs. God's care and love is expressed in our lives so many times. Let us recognize the living presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.