



The Origins of the Feast of Corpus Christi

By Steven Huber

This Sunday in North America marks the Feast of Corpus Christi, also referred to as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. It is a feast dedicated solely to the mystery of the Eucharist, and as such, does not honor one specific event in Jesus' life (as Feasts like Christmas, the Presentation in the Temple, Easter, and the Ascension do.)

In my curiosity about the origins of this celebration, I began to do a bit of research online. What I found was that the Feast of Corpus Christi was not celebrated throughout the entire Catholic Church until the year 1264. But the history goes even deeper than that.

In 1208, St. Juliana of Liege experienced several visions, including one of Christ instructing her to plead for the institution of a feast to honor the Eucharist. She experienced these visions for 20 years, but kept them a secret. She finally told a priest about the visions, who in turn told the local bishop about them. She repeatedly petitioned the bishop to institute the feast, and in 1246, the feast was celebrated throughout the Diocese of Liege for the first time.

In 1264, Pope Urban IV issued a Papal bull, *Transiturus de hoc mundo*, in which the feast of Corpus Christi was made a feast throughout the entire Catholic Church. This came after Pope Urban IV had investigated claims of a Eucharistic Miracle in Bolsena, Italy, in 1263, in which it was reported that a Consecrated Host began to bleed. Whether or not this miracle had anything to do with the Pope's decision to institute the feast remains unknown, but it does bring me to my next point perfectly.

Jesus, in giving us the Eucharist, makes several different statements about the Eucharist being His Body and Blood. Perhaps the most well known of these passages comes from the Gospel of John, chapter 6, verses 32-59. This passage is often referred to as the Bread of Life discourse, in which Jesus proclaims "I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and you who believe in me shall not thirst." This passage is one of the most beautiful passages pertaining to the Eucharist, because in it, Jesus lays out for us exactly what we must do to have life in Him.

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

There is a lot to digest in this passage. First off, we have the double sacrifice of Jesus giving his flesh both in the Eucharist, and on the Cross at Calvary. We also see in this passage that Jesus refers to his body as "true food" and his blood as "true drink." This is not to indicate that these should be our only forms of nourishment, but rather that the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus are to be our spiritual food and drink for "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him." And the life that we will have is life eternal. So, the Eucharist is not nourishment for our bodies, but rather for our souls.

But of course, in order for the Eucharist to have any meaning, we must believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine we offer at Mass, and that the mere bread and wine, by the miracle of Transubstantiation, cease to be bread and wine, and become the Body and Blood, soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course many have doubted this revelation, but throughout history, Jesus has given us many signs of His true presence in the Eucharist.

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MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor
Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.
Associate Pastor
Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.
Office Manager
Virginia Fong
Pastoral Coordinator
Bertilla Watanabe
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Theresa Barao

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

IN RESIDENCE.

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 olphchurchvancouver



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

June 18, 2017

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Marking Important Parish and National Milestones

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

The Feast of Corpus Christi is a very important solemnity in the liturgical calendar. It was decreed by Pope Urban IV in 1264 with the help of the great theologian, Thomas Aquinas who apparently also wrote the now famous *Tantum Ergo* to be sung at this feast. This event is often celebrated with outdoor processions in many parishes.

Speaking of the great outdoors, next Sunday after the 4pm Mass, we will head outside for the blessing of the "new" statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Help which was gifted to us. It has been restored and is in the process of being installed. Hopefully, it will be ready for our Feast Day celebrations. What a wonderful feast day it's going to be... we have two archbishops celebrating the 4pm Mass with us!

To mark the milestone of Canada's 150th Anniversary, the Canadian Bishops decided to consecrate the country to our Blessed Mother with a special prayer of Consecration. We will include this beautiful prayer as part of our blessing ceremony next Sunday in anticipation of the July 1 celebrations.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Triduum starting Thursday evening at 7pm. Come a little early and enjoy some lively music which is part of our Mission tradition. Archbishop Pettipas is an excellent Mission preacher, we are blessed to have him preach at the Triduum and feast day. Don't forget to bring your potluck dessert for the feast day celebrations. Have a great week!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.



Praise the Lord Jerusalem. - Psalm 147

NEWS & NOTICES

Food Bank Appeal: Our Food Bank Appeal is on this weekend. Donations will go toward the Kitsilano Shower Program. Cash donations will go toward their breakfast and bagged lunch to-go programs. The Shower Program is also requesting donations of specific men's clothing items - jeans, pants size 30-32, small t-shirts and runners/hiking boots. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Grade 7 Mass: The Grade 7 Leaving Mass is on Friday June 23 before the Novena Prayers with Archbishop Pettipas. For those attending the Mission, please wait outside until Grade 7 students and their families have recessed out of the church. Thank you!

Dare-2-Dance Summer Camp: The Dare-2-Dance is a dance arts pedagogy that engages children through the arts, and motivates them toward excellence. Dare-2-Dance empowers children to develop/enhance memory strategies and to learn fundamentals of dancing. Age: 7-12 Yrs. Cost: \$250 per week. Snacks are included. For info contact Kathy Mok. Email: communications.olph@rcav.org. Web: <http://Danzkool.ca>
Camp Dates: Week 1: July 11 (Tue, Wed & Thurs) 10am – 1pm
Week 2: July 18 (Tue, Wed & Thurs) 10am – 1pm
Our Camp Instructor: Tim Mah, BC Champion and Canadian Championships Finalist in 10-Dance and Latin American categories; Level 3 NCCP (Coaching) certification

Project Advance: Our Project Advance Appeal for this year has been launched. Please check your mail for a pledge form. There are also brochures at the church which you can use to make your donations. Our target for this year's appeal is \$102,000 to be used for the church's seismic upgrade. You can also make donations at www.rcav.org.

Children's Liturgy: Please note that the Children's Liturgy will now be breaking for the summer holidays. We would like to thank everyone for their support of this Ministry. Have a safe and wonderful summer! -- Volunteers of the Children's Liturgy.

OLPH Jr K Summer Camp: The Junior Kindergarten Program of OLPH Parish is excited to be offering a 2017 Summer Camp. This is a half-day program for children from 3-6 years old. Come join us for some Summer fun with fieldtrips to our local parks, the beach, clay-making, yoga and so much more. Camp Dates: Week 1 July 3-7 | Week 2 July 10-14 | Week 3 July 17-21. For further information please email jrkindergarten@olphbc.ca. Registration forms are available from the JrK classroom. Cost: \$175 per week.

Celebrate Life on Father's Day: June 18 is Father's Day, and also Pro-life Sunday! This is a day to honour the giving of life to others. Last year, we raised \$160,000 through your donations on Pro-Life Sunday, which was given to 22 local Pro-Life groups to support their life-affirming work. This year, there will be a second collection on Sunday, June 18, Father's Day, to help local pro-life groups in our Archdiocese. Your dollars will be spent to strengthen and uphold the value of human life from conception to its natural end. Envelopes will be available at your parish or you can give online today at rcav.org/prolife. Please give generously.

Pro-D Day: There will be no school on Monday June 19 for OLPH students.

PEC Meeting: The next meeting is on Tuesday June 20 at 7pm in the Madonna Room.

PREP Pre-Registration: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Pre-registration for the 2017/2018 school year is now being accepted. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca for information.

PREP Teachers & Teaching Assistants Needed: Would you like to share your talents by helping out as a teacher or teaching assistant? PREP is for children Grades 1-7 who do not go to Catholic school but need to be educated in the Faith. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca.

PRAYER

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norman Lawrence Leach.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

-- Psalm 23:6

Stewardship Reflection

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field... He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom."

- MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds," blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our stewardship we sow "good seeds" on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

JUNE

Worship in the Park

Join us for "Worship in the Park" on Sunday, June 18 at 10am at Trimble Park (West 8th and Trimble). The theme is "Welcoming the Stranger" For info online, look up Point Grey Fiesta.

OLPH Triduum Mission & Feast

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas CSsR is our guest speaker at this year's Triduum Novena & Talks. This will climax with a special Mass to celebrate our feast day at 4pm on Sunday June 25 to be followed by a reception and potluck dessert from parishioners. All are invited.

Friday June 16 – Wed June 21: Novena after morning Mass
-Thurs Novena & Talk June 22: 7pm
Theme: Full of Grace
-Fri Novena & Talk June 23: 7pm
Theme: Blessed Among Women
-Sat Novena & Talk June 24: 6pm
Theme: Prayer for us Sinners
-Sun June 25: Mass at 4pm with Archbishops Miller and Pettipas
Theme: Now and at the Hour of Death (No Mass at 11am and 5pm)

No OLPH gathering is complete without great food and an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, so join us for dinner after Mass. Bring a dessert to share!

JULY

Youth Bake Sale July 8



The OLPH Youth Ministry is organizing a Bake Sale on (July 7 & 8) to raise funds for their Road Trip to the Prairies. You can support them by buying their baked goods or by giving a donation toward this effort. Donation cards and envelopes are available at the Bake Sale table as well as at the Parish office.

The Mission of Mary Today (2nd in Series)

In preparation for our feast day, we are running the second part of a letter from our Redemptorist Superior General Fr. Mark Brehl. Here Fr Brehl tells us that Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, presents us with a new missionary mandate: *Accompany Mary in her Mission today! He believes that this mandate must find resonance in the heart of every Redemptorist missionary and every one of our communities. Below is the continuation of Fr Brehl's address to Redemptorist parishes everywhere.*

From Renewed Devotion to Prophetic Mission

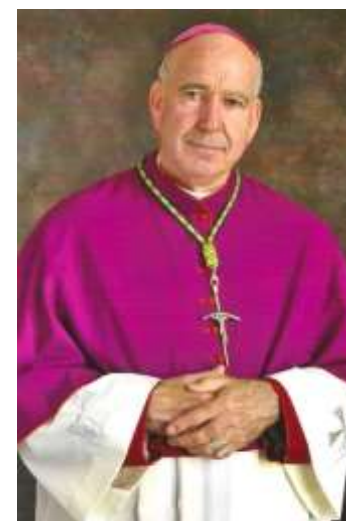
Pope Francis is calling us today to grow in our knowledge of Mary as a real person – human like us, and an Icon of God's maternal love. The gospels offer us a powerful portrait of this woman who is truly our sister. This call invites us to renew our devotion to her so that it also renews our mission with her in our wounded world.

In the Glories of Mary, St. Alphonsus makes the frequent assertion that in the Blessed Virgin Mary, God's power meets God's compassion. Mary not only feels great tenderness toward us, but it is God's will that she also enjoys the power to help us. This is a particularly liberating message for the poor since in their experience those who love them can do little for them and those who have the power to help them are not interested in them. For St. Alphonsus, Mary's mission in the Church is intensely apostolic. His devotion to Mary is at the heart of his conviction that he is sent to the abandoned and the poor with the Good News of liberation, forgiveness and redemption.

Mary knows how to hold together the struggle for justice with maternal tenderness. Without this tenderness and mercy, the struggle for justice can become ideology. If it does, it will not lead to liberation, but to another form of oppression. But tenderness without justice can lead to a kind of sentimental acceptance of 'anything goes', which never challenges to maturity and growth and freedom.

Mary holds together the twin virtues of contemplation and compassion. Without compassion, contemplation will run the risk of narcissism, turning us in on ourselves. This may become the very kind of auto-reference that Pope Francis criticizes in *Evangelii gaudium*, which prevents the Church from going forth, going beyond to reach out and include. Mary holds together in unity prayer and action. This is absolutely vital for the missionary-disciple. Prayer without action will lead to 'devotionalism' without mission. And action without prayer runs the risk of becoming a frenetic activism, disperse and unfocused, which will not be sustainable in the long term.

As the first 'missionary-disciple', Mary teaches us that devotion leads to mission, and mission leads us back to devotion. This integration of devotion and mission is fundamental to the Redemptorist charism and our Vita Apostolica. With Mary, following the teaching of St. Alphonsus, we know that we cannot have authentic devotion without intensely apostolic mission. And our mission will be deepened and sustained by our devotion.



Archbishop Pettipas: Our Mission Preacher

Redemptorist Archbishop Gerard Pettipas is known for his insightful homilies and his gentle, authoritative manner. He arrives on Thursday for our first Mission evening beginning at 7pm.

Archbishop Pettipas was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the age of 26, he was ordained a priest on May 7, 1977 by Bishop Thomas Benjamin Fulton, who at the time was the Titular Bishop of Cursola.

At the age of 56, he was appointed as archbishop of Grouard-McLennan by Pope Benedict XVI on November 30, 2006. He received his episcopal consecration on January 25, 2007 by Archbishop Luigi Ventura, who at the time was the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada; Bishop Denis Croteau, O.M.I., Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of MacKenzie-Fort Smith, North West Territories, Canada; and Bishop Gary Michael Jordan, who at that time was Bishop of the Diocese of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

On Thursday, come a little before 7pm to warm up and get into the spirit of our Mission with music by Tim Mah and friends.

OLPH: MISSION AND FEAST DAY



WITNESSES OF THE REDEEMER

In solidarity for mission to a wounded world

Our mandate and mission with Our Mother of Perpetual Help is not only to make her known. While it is important to continue this mandate, especially for future generations, today we are called to do so much more. Pope Francis reminds us that our mission today must be to accompany Mary in HER mission as a missionary disciple of Jesus the Redeemer! The mission of the Redemptorist family with the Missionary Icon mirrors our theme for the sexennium.

The Mission of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is to live as a prophetic Witness of Jesus the Redeemer. Perhaps Her mission can be summarized with four key words: Accompany, Gather, Pray and Struggle for Justice.

- ACCOMPANY the abandoned and the poor with compassion, tenderness and maternal love. This accompaniment requires true solidarity, to 'draw near' with a commitment to accompany through life, to be faithful and constant especially in challenging and difficult situations.
- GATHER God's people as pilgrims, especially the poor and the suffering. Create safe places where the abandoned and the poor can come together for encounter.
- PRAY in the midst of God's people. Together, in the light of the Word of God, the 'signs of the times', and the experience of the poor, we must prayerfully discern how to act with compassion and mercy, justice and love. This prayer, especially 'prayer for others' is an essential element of true devotion-mission.
- STRUGGLE for justice with the revolutionary power of love and tenderness. Our devotion moves us into prayerful solidarity for the transformation and healing of our wounded world. This struggle for justice is the consequence of a deeply rooted faith in the Incarnation.