

June 18th, 2017
Solemnity
Body and Blood of Jesus
Cycle A

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2 – 3, 14b – 16a.

God provided an unknown food to our ancestors in the desert.

Psalms 147: 12 – 13, 14 – 15, 19 – 20.

Praise our God Jerusalem.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 16 – 17.

God's desire for us is to be the Body of Christ.

Gospel: John 6: 51 – 58.

God offers eternal life to those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Christ.

“We are the Body of Christ”

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

Wow! Before I forget, and I easily could, HAPPY FATHERS' DAY to all who have in any way been or acted as a father to another human being. Please stand and let us acknowledge their contribution to the Body of Christ. (Applause) We are the body of Christ.

In its infinite wisdom (we call it the Holy Spirit) the Church has liturgically scheduled two great faith celebrations just outside of Easter, which is the mother of all liturgical celebrations: The solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, last weekend, and the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus, commonly known by its Latin name “*Corpus Christi*,” which we are celebrating today. Kind of you are what you eat solemnity. We are the body of Christ.

If I were going to pick a better time to celebrate Sr. Pamela Owens's legacy with our parish, I could not have done it. She has brought and spread so much of Jesus' joy in our midst that we are changed forever, at least I am. Thank you Sister Pam (applause) we are the body of Christ, and better for having touched lives with you.

Which caused me to think about, the memorial service we held this a week ago on June 7, commemorating the deaths of Larry Paulik and Tony Nelson and the three others who lost their human lives in the tragic bicycle accident of a year ago. We honor the 4 who survived as well as pray for the perpetrator. This was one of those moments when I realized the true beauty of the Communion of Saints and the fact that because Larry and Tony's love had touched my (our) life I am changed forever and so is the life of St. Tom's/Kalamazoo. We are the body of Christ.

This caused me also to remember our May excursion to Europe and how well we were treated by both relatives and strangers bringing the awareness of our true oneness with all to mind? The absolute holiness one felt visiting the grounds of Normandy and Dachau was an absolutely blessing. It helped me to realize just how related we are and how thankful we must be to those who went before us and gave their all so we can go on. We are the body of Christ.

Then this week, I was blessed to be at a workshop on aging (or "soul building") given by Thomas Moore. One of the points he made was that as we live our lives we really need to be future oriented not necessarily just here and now; and that life is really like a recipe, you must follow the ingredient list to have it turn out the way you want it. Not so much balancing everything, but putting the right amount of each ingredient in so as not to collapse the recipe. Think of your own intimate relationships. Do you sometimes invest more time in one activity, good as it may be, to the detriment of your primary love interest? It can sour things. So it is with our relationship with God, especially if we begin to take it for granted. We need to follow the recipe as spelled out by Jesus in the Gospel today: **"My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. By eating my flesh and drinking my blood you enter into me and I into you. In the same way that the fully alive Father sent me here and I live because of him, so the one who makes a meal of me lives because of me. This is the bread from heaven. Your ancestors ate bread and later died. Whoever eats this bread will live always."** As the Orthodox Church announces it, **"Holy food for Holy people," We are the body of Jesus.**

This and every Eucharist is a reminder, "You have what you need, Take it! Eat it! There will be more!"

God is good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**

