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The heart of the Catholic Faith is the Holy Eucharist. Jesus, our Savior, does not save us at a distance. He is not aloof. He is not uncaring. No, he is intimate and close, and he loves us to his very last breath and to the very last drop of his blood.

What all this means, of course, is that to really love him back, in return, means that we, too, have to go all the way. We cannot be lovers of Christ and hold back. We cannot be part-time lovers. We cannot cheat on Jesus. We either love him with our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul and our whole body or we really do not love him at all.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. We proclaim our faith in the fact that Jesus actually feeds us with his body and blood. Christ is often represented with the symbol of the Pelican, for the bird feeds its own young with its own blood. Jesus does the same for us. He not only offers his body and blood on the cross as a sacrifice, he also sets a table for us, and we feed off the victim of the sacrifice by partaking of the body and blood of the Lord, food and drink for our souls.

This is why the Mass is the center of Catholic life. This is why to ignore the Mass is to miss the whole point of what being "Catholic" is all about. In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Are we worthily eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of Man? If not, then we have no life in us. Jesus and his Church challenge us today to think about our spiritual life and especially our relationship to Christ in the Eucharist, about our attendance at Mass and the Sacrament. We should be so filled with love of Christ and appreciation of the Holy Eucharist that we attend Mass and receive Communion not because there is a "law" that we must, but simply out of awe, wonder and gratitude that Jesus would be so close and intimate with us.

On this great feast of Corpus Christi, let us pray for the grace to take the Lord seriously and come to him regularly in the Mass and Communion. We cannot live on the "fringe" and be close to our Savior. He did not live on the "fringe" for us.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, JUNE 19 – St. Romuald, Abbot

8:00 AM Catherine Pillitteri

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 – No Mass scheduled for Today

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 – St. Aloysius Gonzaga

8:00 AM Ann Lancaster

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 – SS Thomas More and John

Fisher, Martyrs

8:00 AM Bill Hurley

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 – Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:00 AM Ann Howard (Anniv.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 -- No Mass on Saturday morning

5:00 PM [For Sunday] Laura and Michael
Kandziolka

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 25 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

11:00 AM Jack and Elizabeth Watson

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the families of Ann Lancaster and Bertha Lelis. Please remember the deceased and their families in your prayers.

PARISH PICNIC DATE -- Sunday, August 6. The picnic will be held as last year, on the **PARISH GROUNDS**. More details later. If you would be interested in helping in some way in picnic arrangements, contact Cathy Moxie, Picnic Chairlady (724-274-2547). A meeting of the picnic helpers will be held in the Church Hall on Monday, June 26, at 7:00 PM. **Mark the dates on your calendar: PICNIC, Sunday, August 6. Picnic committee: Monday, June 26.** Thank you.

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POPE BENEDICT SPEAKS: EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN FAITH, A FUNDAMENTAL TASK

On June 6, 2006, Benedict XVI spoke on "The joy of and the education of new generations."

The Pope pointed out how "educating new generations in the faith is a great and fundamentally important task that involves the entire Christian community," one that has become "particularly difficult" today and, hence, is "even more important and urgent."

The "certainty and joy of being loved by God must, in some way, be made palpable and concrete for each of us, and especially for the young generations who are entering the world of faith," he said.

The Holy Father then highlighted the importance of the new generations feeling that the Church "is a company of friends, one that is truly trustworthy and remains close in all the moments and circumstances of life, and that will never abandon us even in death, because it carries in itself the promise of eternity."

Young people and adolescents, he went on, "must be disabused of the widespread prejudice that Christianity, with its commandments and its prohibitions, places too many obstacles to the joy of love, and in particular that it prevents the full enjoyment of the happiness that man and woman find in their mutual love. The Ten Commandments are not a series of 'nos', but a big 'yes' to love and to life. Human love must be purified, it must mature and go beyond its own limits in order to become truly human, to be the origin of true and lasting joy, to respond to that demand for eternity it carries within itself and which it cannot relinquish without betraying itself. This is the fundamental reason for which love between man and woman is fully realized only in marriage."

Benedict XVI highlighted how the theme of truth "must occupy a central position." In the faith, he said, "we welcome and accept the Truth that our minds cannot fully understand, that they cannot possess." This "enables us to arrive at the mystery in which we are immersed and to rediscover in God the definitive meaning of our existence."

Another dimension of the faith, the Pope went on, "is entrusting oneself to a person: not to any person but to Jesus Christ" who "fills our hearts, expanding them and imbuing them with joy, spurring our intelligence towards unexplored horizons, offering His decisive standpoint to our freedom, thus raising it up from the straits of egoism and making it capable of authentic love."

BISHOPS URGE SUPPORT FOR THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania issued the following pastoral appeal regarding the upcoming state and national legislative actions to support the protection of the institution of marriage through an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States:

"Deeply concerned about preserving and protecting the divinely ordained institution of marriage, as reflected in the natural order of creation, we, the Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania, renew our call for the support of an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America, defining marriage as the exclusive union of one man and one woman. Marriage, so understood by diverse cultures and peoples throughout millennia of history, is a natural and universal institution, the foundation of family life, and the bedrock of our society and civilization. The preservation and protection of the identity of marriage, as it has always been understood, is a moral imperative of the highest order, and a requirement of the common good. We urge our legislators, both on the state and national levels, to support the marriage protection amendment. We appeal to our Catholic faithful and indeed all the citizens of our Commonwealth to make their voices heard and to contact their elected state and federal representatives to support these amendments."

(Newsletter of the PCC)

A FATHER'S DAY WISH

WHAT I WANT MY CHILDREN TO REMEMBER ABOUT OUR HOME

That God was the center of our life.
 That their father and mother loved each other.
 That our home was a happy one because we all worked to keep it that way.
 That the books and TV programs and magazines were appropriate and uplifting.
 That absolute truth abided there; no earnest questioner, however young, was put off with evasion and excuses.
 That we practiced hospitality, and that our friends loved to visit us.
 That Sunday was the happiest day of the week, one which we all looked forward to because it was the day when we went to church together.
 That although father and mother worked hard and long at their respective jobs, they found time every day to keep informed on current events, to read good books, to have fun with their children, and to pray.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!