

## HOMILY CORPUS CHRISTI YRC 2019

I came across a quote from the South African civil rights leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This is what he said: “By himself, God won’t, by ourselves, we can’t, but together with God, we can.” When we are faced with challenges in our lives, God does not act alone to overpower our freewill, and if we move forward with our own plan alone it is usually not very effective, but together with God we can accomplish great things. So it is important that we find the place where we can connect with God.

Today, we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi and are mindful of the great gift of the Eucharist in our lives. In the Eucharist, Jesus is present in a way that we can see, touch and taste. We are physical and spiritually beings and Jesus is present to us physically and spiritually. This is important. The God who is everywhere can just as easily be the God that is nowhere. Every time we celebrate the Mass, we have a unique opportunity to connect with God.

The Gospel reading today is a prefiguration of the Mass. Jesus starts by healing the sick and feeds the crowd spiritually by his Word, by teaching and preaching. We do the same thing at each Mass. In the Penitential Rite we receive healing through the forgiveness of our sins. Then we hear the Word of God in the 4 readings from the Bible and we hear teaching through the Homily. Next, Jesus asks the disciples to do something that is seemingly impossible, feed 5,000 who were gathered there that day. The disciples brought forth what little they had, the five loaves and two fish, and Jesus multiplied them and created abundance. There is no attempt to explain how this happened. It is part of the mystery of our faith. We do the same thing at Mass. We bring forth what little we have, the bread and wine brought forward by members of the congregation and through the mediation of the priest becomes the Body and Blood of Christ.

God creates abundance from what little we bring forward. And as much as we have tried to explain how Jesus accomplishes this, it is still part of the mystery of our faith.

Every time we celebrate Mass we have an incredible opportunity to connect with God. That is why it is so important that we come to Mass each weekend to receive his healing, to hear his Word and to receive his Body and Blood. God is present here in a way that we can see and touch and taste. And as we go forth in our lives all week, if we bring to God what little we have, he will bring abundance into our lives. We frequently think that what we have to offer is too little to make a difference. However it really is not a question of how much we have but how much we are willing to give. When we join with God we can make a difference.

And it is no accident that we come together as a community each time we celebrate the Mass, just like Jesus brought the 5,000 together in the Gospel reading. When we come together as community we have an opportunity to create a connection with one another. I think the 5,000 who witnessed the multiplication of the loaves and fishes that day started a spiritual bond with the others that were present there. We can do the same at Mass. We all receive the Body and Blood of Jesus and are spiritually connected. There are people all around you in the congregation who are waiting to receive your gifts. There are people all around you as you move through your week who are searching for truth and meaning in their lives that only God can provide. They are not going to ask you to introduce them to God because they do not know that it is God that they are looking for. They are waiting for you to share your faith with them. When all of us gathered here as a community join with God, we can make a difference. It is not really a question of how much we have, but how much we are willing to give. "By himself, God won't, by ourselves, we can't, but together with God, we can."