

# LITURGY BYTES

## *Corpus Christi*



Next weekend's feast reminds us of the importance of the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. Corpus Christi is Latin for the "Body of Christ." In recent years, this feast is celebrated as a solemnity on the Sunday following Trinity Sunday as per the liturgical reforms of the second Vatican Council. At its core, the solemnity is a celebration of the tradition and belief in the Eucharist as the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Important for us to keep in mind is that every Sunday is a feast of the Eucharist, because by participating in the Mass, and in receiving communion, we are honoring and celebrating the Eucharist. Still, this feast has its own history.

Through the efforts of St. Juliana, her devotion sparked celebrating this feast in a joyful manner. It was because of her great veneration for the Eucharist at an early age and her visions that occurred for over 20 years before she told anyone about them. It was recorded that she shared her visions only with some of the Sisters from her religious community. Years later, she finally revealed the vision to her confessor, who brought it to the local bishop. This priest was instrumental in having Corpus Christi become an annual celebration in their diocese. Eventually, an archdeacon for that diocese of Liege shared her devotion and interest, and this man later became Pope Urban IV and instituted the Solemnity of Corpus Christi as a feast for the entire Latin Rite. Pope Urban also requested St. Thomas Aquinas to write special prayers and hymns for the feast. Perhaps you might be familiar with these hymns: *Tantum Ergo*, *O Salutaris Hostia* and *Pange Lingua*. The first two are usually part of Benediction, and the last one is used on Holy Thursday in some parishes.

Let us treasure the precious gift of the Eucharist not just once a year but every day of our lives and realize the privilege it is to share in the Eucharist.

Have a blessed, healthy, and safe week! ~~~*Michele Hahn*