



ST PAULS MEDIA **pastoral ministry**
AMBUHAY
MISSALETTE
 Celebrates the 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines (1521-2021)



Year 34 No. 65 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (B) — White June 6, 2021

We celebrate today the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ). This is a feast that gives us motive to thank God mightily, because it can be considered as a second great gift to humanity after that of creation. If creation is already a wonder, much more the body of Christ which, to consider it more deeply, is greater than creation because being united to Christ's divinity, it enjoys the traits of that divinity, like immortality, power, and holiness. But that is going ahead of the explanation.

Creation is a wonder, not just because of its vastness, but also because of its beauty and variety. Man has not yet determined the size of the universe. If light travels from a stationary source at 300,000 kms per second, light from Earth has not yet reached the limits of the universe after millions of years, according to scientists. The universe reflects the immensity of God. Yet it is not only beautiful but also varied at the same time. The Philippines in a particular way reflects this beauty and variety, with its diverse fishes, flora, and fauna. Besides these living creatures, the country has also a wealth of inanimate minerals: gold, silver, platinum, etc. If there are patches of poverty in the country, it can be ascribed to politics and to the greed, ignorance, selfishness and cruelty of certain people. But in itself the country is a wonder of

CORPUS CHRISTI



by Fr. Arthur Palisada, SSP

creation.

Now, for the second gift of the Creator God to man, the Body of Christ, together with his blood, soul, and divinity (according to the Church's teaching about the feast), the infinite price of it has perhaps not yet entered the imagination of men and women. Because it is God giving himself to people. It is not man giving anything to God, as if they owned anything coming from themselves. God gives himself to men and women, a miracle of grace, of divine generosity, of unconditional love,

of graciousness, of providence, the Creator giving to creatures... And all this braving, on the part of Christ the Son of God, all the drama, the agony of Calvary: "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son."

Every time believing Christians and Catholics attend Mass, they relive in an unbloody, sacramental ritual form what Christ said to his Apostles they should do after his action during the Last Supper, his Calvary, death and resurrection. Christians and Catholics experience again what their Master experienced during the last moments of his life on earth for the redemption of humanity. And they should love, forgive, and help their fellow human beings as needs arise and dictate. The life of Christians in this sense is a battle. A battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. But it is a battle that is winnable, they are with their Master, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, who is God and for whom nothing is impossible. "I shall be with you," Christ said to his disciples before ascending back to heaven. Believing this, St. Aloysius Gonzaga said he prepared himself for 12 hours before receiving Communion and thanked the Eucharistic Lord for 12 hours after receiving Communion. And surely part of the gift of communion, St. Lorenzo Ruiz said: "I am willing to die even a thousand deaths for my faith...".

PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

Our Ongoing Journey in Mission

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

As our local Church here in the Philippines celebrates five centuries of Christianity, we take a closer look at the 2012 CBCP document *Live Christ, Share Christ*. This was the pastoral exhortation that launched the nine-year "novena" (2013-2021) in preparation for the national observance of the 500 years of Christianity in these islands.

The exhortation, signed by Cebu Archbishop Jose S. Palma, CBCP President, begins: "We look forward with gratitude and joy to March 16, 2021, the fifth century of the coming of Christianity to our beloved land. We remember with

thanksgiving the first Mass celebrated on Limasawa Island on Easter Sunday March 31 that same blessed year. We remember the baptism of Rajah Humabon who was given his Christian name Carlos and his wife Harah Amihan who was baptized Juana in 1521.

"Our eyes gaze on the Santo Niño de Cebu, the oldest religious icon in the Philippines, gift of Ferdinand Magellan to the first Filipino Catholics that same year. Indeed 2021 will be a year of great jubilee for the Church in the Philippines. We shall, therefore, embark on a nine-year spiritual journey that will culminate with the great jubilee of 2021. It is a grace-filled spiritual event of blessings for the Church, starting October 21, 2012 until March 16, 2021." Indeed, this very year—2021, we are celebrating a great "fiesta of faith."

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 81[80]:17)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. In this sacrament, Jesus gives his body and blood to be our food unto eternal life. With this living bread, we experience Jesus' salvation and God's peace, receive power to give ourselves in loving service, and gain strength for our spiritual journey. When we gather in Jesus' name at the Eucharist, we proclaim that we are truly God's people.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

All—I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Ex 24:3–8) *(Sit)*

When God first made a covenant with the Israelites at Sinai, the covenant was ratified with the blood of animals to show that God meant to share in the life and destiny of the chosen people.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

WHEN MOSES came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the LORD, they all answered with one voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has told us."

Moses then wrote down all the words of the LORD and,

rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar.

Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, "All that the LORD has said, we will heed and do."

Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his."

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 116)

R—I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

D F#m
I will take the cup
2 G
of sal - va - tion
3 Em
a - nd call on the
4 A Dsus D
name of the Lord.

1. How shall I make a return to the LORD/ for all the good he has done for me?/ The cup of salvation I will take up,/ and I will call upon the name of the LORD. **(R)**

2. Precious in the eyes of the LORD/ is the death of his faithful ones./ I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;/ you have loosed my bonds. **(R)**

3. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,/ and I will call upon the name of the LORD./ My vows to the LORD I will pay/ in the presence of all his people. **(R)**

Second Reading (Heb 9:11–15)

The New Covenant, mediated and ratified by Christ through the pouring of his own blood on the cross, is most pleasing to the Father and effective in cleansing sin.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

— The word of the Lord.

All — Thanks be to God.

Sequence (*This sequence, "Laud, O Zion," is optional before the Alleluia.*)
(*Short Form*) (Stand)

**All—Lo! the angel's food is given/
to the pilgrim who has striven;/ see
the children's bread from heaven,/ which on dogs may not be spent.**

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,/ Isaac bound, a victim willing,/ Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,/ manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us;/ Jesus, of your love be-friend us./ You refresh us, you defend us,/ your eternal goodness send us/ in the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,/ who on earth such food bestow,/ grant us with your saints, though lowest,/ where the heav'nly feast you show,/ fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia (Jn 6:51) (Stand)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mk 14:12–16, 22–26)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All — Glory to you, O Lord.

ON THE FIRST DAY of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

— The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Profession of Faith (Stand)

All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from

Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(at the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Let us pray to God, our Father that our Eucharistic celebration may truly be a sign of unity, brotherhood, and sharing in Jesus' name. We pray:

R—Lord, hear our prayer.

C—May the Holy Father Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, and deacons proclaim by their lives the meaning of the sacred mysteries they celebrate. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the Body and Blood of Christ heal all the divisions among the Christian Churches and bind them together in love and service, so that one day, all may sit as one at the Eucharistic table. We pray: **(R)**

C—May all of us grow in faith through our service and be credible signs of God's presence to others. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the sick, the elderly, the handicapped, and those burdened with trials and difficulties be comforted with the hope and presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. We pray: **(R)**

C— May our departed brothers and sisters come to share the banquet of everlasting life. We pray: (R)

C— Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: (R)

P—God our Father, we thank you for this sacrament of our salvation. Help us to worship you with lives poured out in loving service for the sake of our brethren.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts (*Stand*)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

P—Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery in the offerings we here present.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface II of the Most Holy Eucharist

P—The Lord be with you.

All—**And with your spirit.**

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—**We lift them up to the Lord.**

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—**It is right and just.**

P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, he offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be

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enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity.

And so, we approach the table of this wondrous Sacrament, so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace, we may pass over to the heavenly realities here foreshadowed.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth sing a new song in adoration, and we, with all the host of Angels, cry out, and without end we acclaim:
All—**Holy, Holy, Holy...** (*Kneel*)

Acclamation (*Stand*)

All—**Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (*Kneel*)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

(*Note: It would be most fitting today to give communion in both Eucharistic species.*)

Communion Antiphon (Jn 6:57)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion (*Stand*)

P—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P — The Lord be with you.

All — **And with your spirit.**

Solemn Blessing

P — Bow down for the blessing. (*Pause*)

P—Be gracious to your people, O Lord, and do not withhold consolation on earth from those you call to strive for heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All—**Thanks be to God.**