Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ — June 22, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Before television, we used to hear of contests on the radio. “In twenty-five words or less write and tell us why you use your toothpaste and you could win a prize.”It seemed easy, but it is difficult to say something worthwhile in only twenty-five words.

The great theologian and saint, Thomas Aquinas, was able to summarize the meaning of the Eucharist in only twenty Latin words. His summary, known as the “O Sacrum Convivium” is part of the Divine Office for the Feast of Corpus Christi, the feast we celebrate this Sunday. It has been set to several magnificent melodies, but its real beauty is in its meaning.

The word “Convivium” is a banquet. It is not just a meal. It is a happy gathering of people around a sumptuous dinner. This banquet is “sacrum,” that is, it is sacred. The “O” is an exclamation which we could be tempted to translate as “Wow” but I guess an English “O” will do.

The next phrase is “in which Christ is consumed.” That's plain language. The Eucharist is not bread and wine. The Eucharist is Christ. But it is important that the appearance of bread and wine remain since they symbolize that Christ is our food and drink. That is why St.. Thomas says that Christ is “consumed.”

Banquets often mark special occasions, such as weddings or anniversaries. The occasion of the Sacred banquet of the Eucharist is the anniversary of our loving union with the Father through the sacrifice of Christ. It is the living memorial of the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Christ. St. Thomas expressed this truth by saying that in the Eucharist “the memory of his passion is recalled.”

Next St. Thomas indicated the effect of the Eucharist upon us. He wrote that “the mind is filled with grace,” Sometimes the Latin word “mens” is translated as “soul”. The word to St. Thomas means the very highest faculty or aspect of the human person, but I feel confident that he would not object to our saying that Christ transforms our entire being. St. Thomas agreed with St. Augustine who said that we do not change the Eucharist into ourselves as we do ordinary food, but Christ changes us to himself. That is God's grace, his gift.

Finally in the Eucharist, “ a pledge of future glory is given to us.” The statement reflects the teaching of Jesus in St. John's Gospel. “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has life everlasting and I will raise him up on the last day. “ (John 6:54)

St. Thomas Aquinas did not win a contest but he should win our gratitude for this summary of the mystery of faith.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**June 24**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		& Christi
Wed.	**June 25**	**11:00AM**
Gerardo Bernardino †		Lydia
Thur.	**June 26**	**11:00AM**
Dana †		Mom
Fri.	**June 27**	**11:00AM**
Lawrence Leal †		Angelina Nagy & Christi
Sat.	**June 28**	**4:30PM**
William Michael Banaban †		Chris & Evelyn
Sun.	**June 29**	**9:00AM**
Alex Rubang Sr. †		Josie & Family
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of our Parish		

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