

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Cycle C

Focus: To Remember is to be remembered

First Reading

GN 14:18-20

Psalm

PS 110:1, 2, 3, 4

Second Reading

1 COR 11:23-26

Gospel

LK 9:11B-17

Good evening/morning once again. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Today we celebrate the very Real Presence of Christ here among us and through the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Today we are given a glimpse into the abundances of Grace awaiting those who live in love, glory and praise of God.

Through our first reading we learn of Melchizedek, king of Salem, which becomes known as Jerusalem. In this we heard of his giving thanks and praise to God and honor and glory to Abraham for his devotion to God and his magnificent victory that the other kings of the region could not obtain. From this Glory and Honor, Melchizedek was given a tenth of all of Abraham's spoils of war, which was considerable. In our giving to this parish, are we giving out of respect and love for our own ministries, our own staff, and our of Love for God? Or are we simply giving our spare change or sums that are meant to be disrespectful to our parish community here and now? Think about it this way. How do we

remember Melchizedek? As the Great High Priest because of his praise and glory of God. How is Abraham remembered? As this great warrior king or do we remember Abraham as the father of the people of Israel?

Recalled in our second reading the blessing and invocation by Jesus at the Last Supper. In this reading we are reminded to “do this in remembrance”. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again.” To remember is to be remembered. To remember is to acknowledge not only the sacrifice but also the reward of salvation. Think of what else we remember about Jesus?

Why is it we remember? Yes, it is written for us to read. We come here and celebrate the Word. However it is more fundamental than all of that. Our memory of Jesus is a grace and gift from God. A grace poured out lavishly and abundantly, like the multiplication of the fish and loaves. We receive from the Lord what we hand on to others for in giving we receive. Let’s explore this a little more through a remembrance of my Dad who

died June 20th, 2006. As some of you know, if you need a hug, come see me. Dad taught me the power of the hug and being present. I learned to cook from my Dad. Loving to cook became a reality by seeing those celebrating the meal. Knowing that it is totally possible to walk in the footsteps of Christ every moment of every day is another lesson from my Dad. You see at his retirement, co-workers and customers throughout his 30 plus year career wanted to attend and celebrate my Dad at his retirement party. His legacy is a legacy of love and can summed up one beautiful Spring afternoon a couple of months before he died. Coming home from work, I started making dinner as I normally did. You see there was such a small window of time to prepare the meal so he would eat. But this day was different. He said, hey lets go sit on the porch it's a pretty day. Not questioning it or challenging him to are you sure, what have you eaten or anything, I simply got chairs and a couple of drinks, water for him and we sat. We sat in the sun, waved to neighbors and chatted. We talked about how beautiful everything looked which then lead to discussions of God's creation with Dad ending

by talking and reinforcing the truth that God is Love. The discussion started to taper off, the sun was disappearing behind the trees and he started getting cold, so we went in and I started cooking. My Dad has left a profound legacy on me my siblings, as well as my mother whom I have learned and continue to learn much from. But his legacy extended beyond us to all of the folks who worked with and for him, as well as those to whom he conducted business. Only after his career and retirement was he ordained into the Permanent Diaconate and in his short ministry here, my Dad went on teaching the art of being present to one another.

Today we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We celebrate the very real presence of Christ. Today's feast calls us to go beyond ourselves to sacrificial love of others. Today, we are challenged to look at the legacy each of us will leave behind. Today we are challenged to acknowledge what it is we are handing on through our actions, through our words, through our giving of self and treasure. Today more than any other, we are called to be the Real Presence of Christ in this world.