



Essential Evangelization

The Body of Christ

Today we celebrate Corpus Christi Sunday, the Body and Blood of Christ. For Catholics, it is a special day of celebration for our awesome unique Sacrament of the True Presence. The Eucharist strengthens us and helps us to be connected to the true vine, Jesus, the Head of the Church and to our Catholic brothers and sisters in community. Jesus said simply, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him." But the Body of Christ is a multi-faceted concept formulated in Scripture and our Church, with other implications beyond this Sacrament. The "Body" of Christ has implications for utilizing our gifts as empowered by His Spirit and by encouraging unity among the Body.

By the Holy Spirit, the universal "Catholic" Church is connected to all believers from every nation. It is outreaching, even evangelizing. As believers, we should be compelled to use our unique talents to build up this Body of Christ. You may have a gift of evangelization? You may also have comfort, teaching, hospitality or long suffering virtues to share for the benefit of all.

There is also the aspect of unity of our Church and the Body of Christ. Jesus prayed at the Last Supper that "we all be one," as He and the Father (and His Holy Spirit) are one. Unfortunately after 1500 years, the Protestant Reformation splintered our church into which is now many thousands of denominations. Additionally, many members of our very own Catholic church are unfortunately opposed to some of its teachings. In the diversity of our gifts we need to use our strengths to build up the unity of Christ and yet have charity toward our fellow believers to inspire unity among us. The fullness of Christ is found only in the fullness and unity of our Church.

What are we doing to use our unique gifts for our Church? Are we inspiring unity in our Church by embracing all of its teachings?

"About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they are just one thing and we shouldn't complicate the matter."
St. Joan of Arc

*This is one of a series of articles on
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