



Essential Evangelization

Corpus Christi

As Catholic Christians, today we celebrate a great and solemn feast, “Corpus Christi,” which in Latin means the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus is the New Covenant fulfillment of the manna food that came down from heaven and sustained the Jews for forty years in the desert on the journey to their “heaven,” the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Jesus tells us twelve times that He was the bread that came down from heaven; and four times He said that His followers must “eat my flesh and drink my blood.” The witness of Jesus comes to a culmination in John Chapter 6, the Bread of Life Discourse, when Jesus explains the significance of the Sacrament of the Eucharist instituted by Him in the Last Supper.

Many of Jesus’ followers said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?,” because Jesus actually used the Greek word “trogon” that meant very bluntly to “chew” his flesh. Many of his most ardent supporters fell away at this point and Jesus then turned to His Twelve Apostles and said, “Do you also want to leave?” . Unlike our Evangelical and Protestant brothers and sisters who take other passages of Scripture literally, Catholics uniquely believe, along with the Apostles, in this True Presence of Jesus.

The early church celebrated the Eucharist from the first century on, and many miracles of the Eucharist have also occurred throughout the history of the Church. If you have trouble with this Catholic doctrine or would like to learn more about this wondrous sacrament, please read, *Eucharistic Miracles*, by Joan Carroll Cruz. Do you believe?

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.”

John 6: 53-56

*This is one of a series of articles on
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