

“Behold, I am with you always!”
Mt 28:20



The beautiful feast of Corpus Christi is upon us. The feasts of Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi are solemnities which occur in Ordinary time and are celebrated, respectively, on the two subsequent Sundays after the feast of Pentecost. It would seem that Mother Church desires to continue remembering and rejoicing in her greatest joy: the Resurrection of Jesus. In truth, the feast of Corpus Christi extends the Paschal mysteries and joys - endlessly!

How can this be? Within this feast, every promise of our Lord's is contained and actuated in a great symphonic crescendo which remains sustained in heaven and on earth. How? *He is* Corpus Christi, alive and living among us, teaching us, loving us, sustaining and guiding us. *He is* The Word begotten by the Eternal Father. *He is* the Word made flesh in the womb of the Virgin. *He is* the Healer and the One Who works wonders in Galilee, Judea and continues doing so in our own homes, parishes, rectories, seminaries, convents and monasteries. Jesus the Risen One lives, now, among us. He is touchable, visible, present to all those living in Judea 2000 years ago and with those living here, now.

At the moment of his ascension, Jesus said to us, "Know that I am with you always, even to the end of time." We are the recipients of myriads of loving promises of our God - Father, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. We are the recipients of unbroken divine promises which have been kept from generation to generation. He is here, now, among us offering Himself totally to us and perpetually present in the Sacrament of his love, in the holy Eucharistic. We are the beneficiaries of a love, a divine love, so strong and tender. Too often, we prefer not to dwell on the strength of His love for fear we would be powerfully drawn into Him. Often our egocentric selfish selves prefer to ignore His divine love rather than to commit ourselves to focusing on the very gift we so desperately desire and need. This wondrous gift of His love has the capacity to fulfill our lives and our souls completely. This is the happiness for which we were created! Yet, how foolish and poor we can be! So merciful a Redeemer is ours that none of our behavior and our reactions stop Him from being totally what He

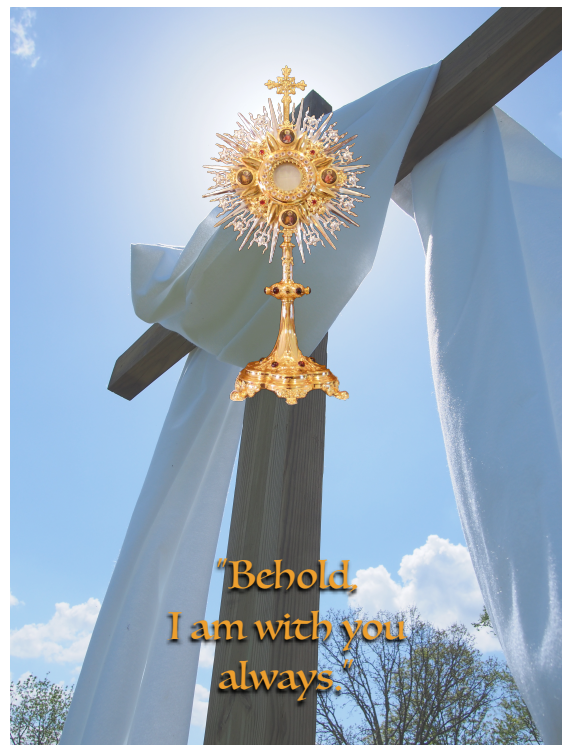
is and will always be - our Life, our All! It behooves us to be drawn into Him who knows us better than we know ourselves and Who still loves us wholly!

Let us ask for the grace to desire to grow in a mature love for Him. This grace will always call for continued spiritual maturation with each step we take in grace. Why? We are finite. He is infinite. Not even our weakness, frailty, nor even our sinfulness keeps Him away. The almighty power of God is barred only by our stubborn willfulness deliberately closing Him out of our lives and souls. Only this stops Him from drawing close. *“Troubled souls why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep. Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep? There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good. There is healing in his blood.”*¹ It is He, our Good Shepherd who is among us, who leads us out of the valley of darkness, which we may often face many times a day and guides us to green pastures, i.e. living in Him. Let us place our trust, our total trust in Him, rather than in our vacillating selfish selves. Let us adore Him, rather than our frail selves. Our daily lives are filled with “...sufficient evils for the day”. It is within this context of our lives that He desires to enter and be Lord, Redeemer, Savior. This means placing our trust in Him each moment, regardless of what our limited human experience tells us. For this we need the strong heart, mind and will of our Lady. She will teach us how to follow Jesus by her own example and will give us her own love of Jesus and fill our hearts with this same love ~ if we ask.

We are approaching the feast of Corpus Christi a day singled out with a special liturgy to honor the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Let us love and honor Him not only on this great feast but every day. Let us come to adore Him in this tremendous outpouring of divine love upon each one of us, totally, and do so with deeply grateful hearts! St. Thomas of Aquinas composed a beautiful hymn for this feast. Below is a short excerpt of this hymn, *Lauda Sion Salvatorem*, the Sequence composed for the Mass of Corpus Christi.

Lo! Upon the Altar lies,
Hidden deep from human eyes,
Angels' Bread from Paradise
Made the food of mortal man:
Children's meat to dogs denied:
In old types fore signified:
In the manna from the skies,
In Isaac, and the Paschal Lamb.

Jesu! Shepherd of the sheep
Thy true flock in safety keep.
Living Bread! Thy life supply;
Strengthen us, or else we die:
Fill us with celestial grace:
Thou, who feedest us below!
Source of all we have or know!
Grant that with Thy Saints above,
Sitting at the Feast of Love,
We may see Thee face to face. Amen



*Blessed Feast of Corpus Christi
Reverend Mother Marietta and all the Handmaids*