



A Call to Global Communion

Global Solidarity Sunday June 5-6, 2010

The Universal Church, on June 5/6, celebrates our communion in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ who, in love, gave his life for the salvation of the world. Even though we are many members from many lands and ways of life, we are one body in Christ. On this day, we are called to deepen our communion with the Lord and with one another.

LITURGY SUGGESTIONS

Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

Scripture Readings:
(Year C) **Genesis 14:18-20**
 Psalm 110
 I Corinthians 11:23-26
 Luke 9:11b-17

Homily Suggestions: The scripture readings call our attention to what it means to be a priestly people. In the book of Genesis, we are told that the priest, Melchizedek, mediates God's blessing on Abram. In turn, Abram passes on the blessing by offering a tenth of everything he has. We are reminded that we each have the power to bless or curse one another. To share in the order of the priesthood of Melchizedek means our willingness to mediate and multiply God's blessing by offering a "tithe" or a portion of the blessings we have received.

In the Gospel story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, the disciples are reluctant to offer their limited rations because they can only see a scarcity. Jesus, on the other hand, shows them that there is an abundance hidden in their scarcity. When they are willing to offer what they have, Jesus is able to multiply the blessing so that all are satisfied. Once again this alludes to the meaning of being a priestly people.

And, in his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds the community of the true meaning of Eucharist being revealed in Jesus' own sacrifice. On the night before he died, Jesus

instituted a new covenant based on the joining of priesthood and sacrifice. The priesthood of Jesus is revealed in the offering of his own body and blood. He is both High Priest and the Lamb of God. All who participate in this feast are called to share in the one, true, living, and eternal sacrifice. It is living bread that satisfies the hungry heart.

The Eucharist is a Sacrament of thanksgiving for all the blessings that God has bestowed on us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Our communion in the Body and Blood of Christ is a mystery and a blessing to be “received” and “offered” in love and service to the world. We participate in a new priesthood in which we offer the loaves and fishes of our life; our tithe with trust that God will bring about a multiplication and a more abundant life that satisfies. As Catholics who participate in a worldwide communion, what return is God asking us to make?

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We pray that our communion may deepen with the Lord and with our brothers and sisters around the world. On this day we acknowledge our global, catholic communion by praying for and sharing our gifts with the universal Church.

Today we will take up a special collection for the sake of fostering Global Solidarity. This collection will go toward assisting the Church in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, and the ongoing relief and development work of Catholic Relief Services. In this way, the gifts that you offer free the gifts and talents of those suffering from poverty, oppression or lack of education. Please be generous in offering yourselves in prayer and financial support for this effort of solidarity and communion.

Prayers of the Faithful

- Let us pray for the Catholic Church around the world. May our sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ lead us to deeper communion and solidarity with one another. We pray to the Lord.
- Let us pray for all those places around the world torn apart by civil strife and division. May the covenant of Christ’s love and mercy be planted and take root so that peace and justice may return. We pray to the Lord.
- Let us pray in thanksgiving for the many efforts of global solidarity that are already present in our archdiocese. May these partnerships of communion bear good fruit. We pray to the Lord.
- Let us pray in gratitude for all the gifts you have given us for the sake of building up the Body of Christ. May we be generous in sharing our gifts in the global family of faith. We pray to the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III is recommended.